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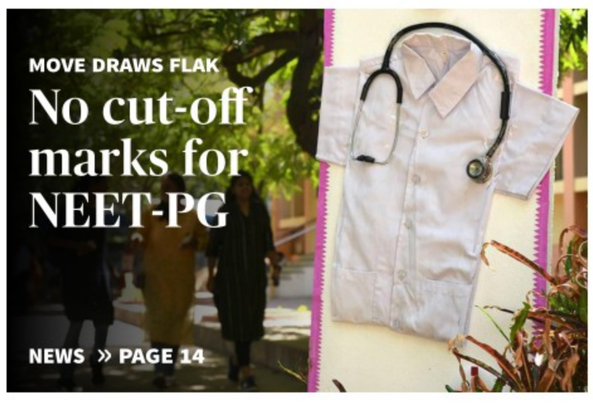

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Lok Sabha passes historic women's reservation Bill

Opposition wants Bill to be delinked from delimitation and a quota within quota for OBCs; Home Minister promises to rectify shortcomings

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Wait is over: MPs are jubilant after the passage of the women's reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

Twenty-seven years after a Women's Reservation Bill was first introduced in Parliament, the Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed such a Bill with near unanimity, to amend the Constitution and provide one-third reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies.

The Bill will now be taken up by the Rajya Sabha for passage in the remaining two days of the Special Session of Parliament and might require approval from half of the States.

Calling it "historic legislation", Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the members. "I thank MPs across party lines who voted in support of this Bill," he said in a post on X.

Only two nays

With 454 members of the Lok Sabha supporting the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Eighth) Bill 2023, the constitutional requirement of a "two-thirds majority of the members present and voting" was easily met. Only two members, the All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen's Asaduddin Owaisi and Syed Imtiyaz Jaleel, opposed the Bill.

The eight-hour debate saw MPs from the Treasury and Opposition benches, led by the Congress, engage in a battle over who should get credit for the landmark Bill, as well as over the contentious issue of a separate quota for women from Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Home Minister Amit Shah assured the House that the government would rectify any shortcomings in the future. "You support the Bill and reservation will be guaranteed," Mr. Shah told Opposition members.

The Congress made a U-turn from its own 2010 position, with its leader Sonia Gandhi, who was the first speaker in the debate, leading the demand for a separate quota within quota for OBCs after a conducting a caste census.

She said there was no need to delay implementation of the Bill by linking it to a delimitation exercise that is frozen till 2026.

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Census and delimitation work after LS poll, says Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday that irrespective of the Opposition's support, the women's reservation Bill will be implemented only after 2029.

According to the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, reservation of one-third of seats for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken based on figures from the first Census that is conducted after the Act is enacted.

Mr. Shah said in the Lok Sabha that the Census and the delimitation exercise will be conducted immediately after the general election.

However, he did not specify the dates for the delayed Census that has remained under ambiguity since 2021 despite the apparatus being ready.

The last Census was held in 2011. The Centre initially attributed the COVID-19 pandemic for postponing the exercise that was to start in two phases in 2020 and conclude by March 31, 2021.

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India issues a tit-for-tat travel advisory for Canada

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Citing "politically condoned violence", India on Thursday issued a travel advisory for all Indian nationals in Canada, including students, urging them to register with Indian missions.

The announcement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came hours after media reports suggested that Canada has issued a travel advisory, especially for Jammu and Kashmir. However, the High Commission of Canada later clarified to *The Hindu* that the advisory has been in place since the summer of 2021.

"In view of growing anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution. Our High Commission/Consulates General will continue to be in contact with the Canadian authorities to ensure the safety and well being of the Indian community," the MEA advisory stated.

A man waiting outside the Air Canada office in New Delhi. AFP

The ongoing India-Canada spat began after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, while speaking in the House of Commons on Monday, blamed Indian agents for the murder of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

The bilateral relations have also been affected by the ongoing online activities by Sikhs for Justice leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, who has launched a campaign saying "Indo Hindus Leave Canada".

Without mentioning the campaign, the MEA advisory said, "Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda."

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NEARBY

Police identify 60 black spots

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru Traffic Police have identified 60 accident-prone locations in the city, commonly referred to as "accident black spots," and have outlined specific measures to enhance safety at these locations. This list will be submitted to the civic agencies responsible. » PAGE 2

HSRP mandate poses a problem

BENGALURU
The Transport Department's order to fix high-security registration plates (HSRP) on vehicles has led to many unauthorised vendors fixing illegal plates. » PAGE 4

Ask CWMA to reconsider its order, State tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Karnataka government on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court for a direction to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reconsider its September 18 decision to ensure a flow of 5,000 cusecs of river water to Tamil Nadu till September 29.

The State urged the court to direct the CWMA to reconsider its September 18 decision after taking a fresh recommendation from the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

"This water year of 2023-24 has begun on a bad note. The southwest monsoon which feeds the catchment in Karnataka has failed miserably," the Karnataka application said.

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Deviation from SOP caused fire at BBMP lab: Report

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A file photo of the fire at the lab.

The internal technical inquiry into the fire accident at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)'s Quality Control Laboratory and Office on August 11, which led to the death of a chief engineer and left several others critically injured, found that deviation from the standard operating procedure (SOP) while conducting bitumen extraction had led to the fire accident.

The report, which was submitted by BBMP Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) B.S. Prahlad, said, "There was a deviation from the SOP and methodology of heating the bituminous mix sample. Electric stove was being used to soften the mix, and open fire method was being adopted for drying and separating the aggregate mix and residual benzene from the bituminous mix."

Usage of open fire

The report said that the test known as IRC SP: 11-1984 (bitumen content/extraction test) categorically stipulates using an oven for softening, drying and separating the aggregate mix and residual benzene. The usage of open fire may be the primary cause of the accident, the report said.

When the accident occurred, the staff were conducting an extraction test on the sample of the bituminous concrete mix collected pertaining to asphalting work in Basavanagudi sub-division. A class 4 employee, Suresh, was assisting.

The report, however, said Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Anand G., who was supervising the test, and Mr. Suresh were fully qualified to conduct the test. While the report has pointed out the deviation from SOP, it has not recommended any action against the staff who were responsible for the deviation. All the staff in the quality control division were given training by external faculty.

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Blasters and Vukomanovic paying the price for an emotional decision

Only time will tell if the Kerala team can pull off its plans for this season after one of the most contentious calls by a coach in Indian football last year

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

In one of the most controversial frames captured in Indian football, an otherwise calm and professional Ivan Vukomanovic, Kerala Blasters FC's coach, was seen gesturing to his players to walk off the pitch at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

The issue was he was not in agreement with referee Crystal John awarding Bengaluru FC's Sunil Chhetri a quick-freekick goal against his side in last season's contest. BFC was awarded the match 3-0, but the repercussions for Blasters was far from just a loss to its fiercest rival in the ISL knockout joust.

As American writer Sean Covey once said, "We are free to choose our paths, but we can't choose the consequences that come with them."

Tough times

And this has been true for Kerala Blasters and its gaffer Vukomanovic as both parties have gone through some tough times since the forfeit on March 3 this year.

After one of the most infamous moments in Indian football, AIFF, on March 31, penalised Vukomanovic with a 10-match ban from AIFF tournaments along with a ₹5 lakh fine under Article 9.1.2 of the AIFF disciplinary code. Apart from this, the club was asked to pay a fine of ₹4 crore and issue a public apology, failing which would have seen the amount increased to ₹6 crore. And, the club had to comply.

On April 2, Kerala Blasters issued a statement on its social media platforms regretting the incident. However, the damage was already done, and to make matters worse, the heavy punches were yet to land on the side that was already backed to a corner by its own deeds.

The ISL is still in its infancy stage, even though the tournament is 10-years-old now, and most of the clubs find it tough to make two ends meet. It is no surprise that finances took a hit on Blasters' plans for the next season. The miseries compounded as AIFF rejected KBFC's appeal on June 2.

The club from the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea', had its ship sinking and had to do something drastic to keep afloat. The captain's decision backfired, with severe consequences. However, Blasters could not afford to sack the driving force behind the club's resurgence in the league. Vukomanovic was the leader of the masses and had the support of the club's dedicated fans, also known as *Manjappada*.

Australian writer Lauren Eden once said, "Sometimes we are just the collateral damage in someone else's war against themselves."

And this came true for the women's team of Blasters when the club decided to temporarily shut down the side just four days after the AIFF rejected its appeal on the fine and the ban.

"It is with a heavy heart that we must announce the temporary pause of our women's team. This decision has been necessitated by the recent financial sanctions imposed on our club by the football federation. While we respect the authority and decisions of the federation, we cannot deny our disappointment at the impact it is likely to have across various functions of our club," the club posted on various social media platforms.

The club then decided to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) as well and a decision is awaited.

Strategic calls

The club now had to make strategic calls while bringing in new players – which is what Blasters' Sporting Director Karolis Skinkys is known for as well – for the season and the *Manjappada* had begun voicing their concerns.

However, Nikhil Bhardwaj, the club's Director of Operations, assured that there was no need for the fans to worry. "I see many people panicking and worrying about the departures versus arrivals, relax. Every such decision is approved by the coach and SD. We will be stronger, we will be better," he posted on X.

Given the hand it dealt itself after last season's unceremonious exit, the Kerala outfit has done quite well in the preparation leading to this year's ISL. Despite losing its talismanic midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the transfer window, the team roped in some Indian talent to strengthen the squad.

The signings of Prabir Das, Pritam Kotal and Aibanbha Dohling to shore up the defence and striker Ishan Pandita to rack up the goals will exude confidence in the die-hard fans from the tropical state of Kerala.

The Yellow Army and the West Block Blues will be up against each other on Thursday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kaloor, to revive their famed rivalry as the 10th season of the league begins. Vukomanovic will not be on the sidelines donning his ironed-and-tucked-in white shirt, as the 10-match ban is still on.

Only time will tell if Blasters' plans for this season will come off after one of the most contentious calls by a coach in Indian football last year.

THE GIST

- Kerala Blasters has finished runner-up in three Indian Super League seasons and has never won the title
- Freshly promoted Punjab FC will be the 12th team in the league this year
- The 10th season of the league begins on Thursday with a match between Blasters and Bengaluru FC in Kochi

Federer's outfit from 20th Major title run to be auctioned

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Looking for an "inexpensive" way into the lucrative sports memorabilia market? One of Roger Federer's match-worn outfits might be your ticket.

Not just any shirt and shorts, of course. An online auction that starts on Wednesday is offering a Federer outfit from his winning run at the 2018 Australian Open. That was his 20th and final Grand Slam title.

The Nike-made outfit is "expected to achieve up to $35,000," Prestige Memorabilia said. Both items are signed by the Swiss great, who retired one year ago. Bidding closes Oct. 8.

A mint condition Mickey Mantle baseball card sold for $12.6 million in August 2022. That broke a record for the most expensive auctioned piece of sports memorabilia set a few months earlier, when the shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup went for $9.3 million.

GAME TIME

Test your knowledge on the Indian Super League

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

QUESTION 1
I have scored in a FIFA World Cup Final and was part of an Indian Super League club. Who am I?

QUESTION 2
I scored an Olympic goal in the league for the team coached by the previous question's answer. Who am I?

QUESTION 3
What milestone in the league's history was broken in a match between FC Goa and NorthEast United at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Fatorda, a day after the Olympic goal was scored by the previous question's answer?

QUESTION 4
I scored the winning penalty for my club in an ISL final. I was substituted in for the person who scored the last question's answer after he achieved the feat. Who am I?

QUESTION 5
Both of us were in the same team when the last question's answer won the ISL final for us with his penalty kick. However, we are now in the team that lost that final. Who are we?

QUESTION 6
We are twins and have come through the ranks to the senior side of the same ISL club as last question's answer. Who are we?

QUESTION 7
I scored the winner in extra time in a knockout match that saw the very first question's answer missing a penalty in regular time for the opposition. Who am I?

QUESTION 8
I am from the same country as last question's answer and I have also won the Hero of the League award for a season of the ISL. Who am I?

QUESTION 9
I am in the same club as last question's answer now and I am also the second most prolific Indian goal-scorer in the league. Who am I?

Question10. Identify this iconic player.

THE ANSWERS

1. Marco Materazzi. 2. Bruno Pelissari. 3. 100th goal. 4. Jewel Raja. 5. Prabir Das and Pritam Kotal. 6. Mohammed Aimen and Mohammed Azhar. 7. Stephen Pearson. 8. Greg Stewart. 9. Lallianzuala Chhangte. 10. Steven Mendoza.

Traffic police identify 60 black spots, unveil remediation measures

Suggested measures include installation of accident-zone signboards, construction of skywalks, and placement of cat eyes and blinkers

ACCIDENT BLACK SPOTS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have identified 60 accident-prone locations in the city, commonly referred to as "accident black spots," and have outlined specific measures to enhance safety at these locations. This list will be submitted to the civic agencies responsible.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner (Traffic) of Bengaluru, said: "This is the annual practice of identifying black spots and producing reports to mitigate accidents in these areas. The main intention is to collaborate with civic agencies in the pursuit of measures to reduce accidents in black spots.

The suggested measures include installation of accident zone signboards, construction of skywalks, placement of cat eyes and blinkers, CCTV cameras, rumbler strips, road markings, road humps, street lights, raised centre medians, and speed limit signage boards.

Traffic between satellite bus stand and Gali Anjaneya Swamy temple on Mysuru Road. K. MURALI KUMAR

For example, the traffic police have identified a black spot near Bagmane tech park EMC square building on Outer Ring Road in Mahadevapura and the police recommendation includes the construction of a skywalk and a high-rise barricade in the central median for improved safety measures. "Similarly, implement suitable solutions in all the 60 black spots soon," Mr. Anucheth added.

An analysis of accidents on the city roads by the traffic police released in June shows that over the past three years, the number of accidents in 2022 rose by 120 compared to 2020, even as the number of fatalities shot up by 115 during the same period. The number of pedestrians killed also shot up from 164 in 2020 to 247 in 2022.

Of the 772 fatalities in 2022, 431 (55%) were two-wheeler riders, and 289 persons who caused the accidents (37%) were two-wheeler riders. A quarter of pedestrian deaths were caused by two-wheelers.

In this series, "Accident black spots", starting today, *The Hindu* will visit four such stretches to see what is missing, what has been suggested and what can be.

Flyover ramps and higher vehicle density leading to accidents on Mysuru Road

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

During peak hours, around 130 vehicles pass through this junction every minute, noted an official from Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station explaining the problems at KSRTC junction on Mysuru Road. This is one of the four points identified on Mysuru Road as accident black spots by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP).

The up-and-down ramp at BB junction, a 600-metre stretch from AS Char Street to Jamia Masjid on the BGS flyover, and Nayandahalli junction, are three other identified black spots. A total of 55 accidents, including 19 fatal ones, have occurred at these four points on Mysuru Road in the last three years (2020 to 2022). Starting from Town Hall in the middle of the city, it is one of the busiest roads in Bengaluru. The highway also sees a lot of heavy motor vehicles and bus movement every day.

The 600-metre stretch on the BGS flyover and BB junction share similar problems. The ramps of the flyover on both sides are the primary causes of accidents there, according to the local traffic police. Speeding vehicles, which come from both sides, often lose control after climbing down or up the ramps. They also said that pedestrians crossing the roads at undesignated spots, including on the flyover, results in fatal accidents.

Naveen, a business owner near BB junction, noted that motorists coming down from the flyover towards the junction and taking a right turn towards Mohinpura road, which leads to residential areas, is the problem at the junction. "Motorists on the other side, who are on their way to climb the flyover, would have to abruptly stop their vehicles and if pedestrians or any slow-moving vehicles get in the way, it leads to accidents," he said.

A slew of measures, including CCTV installation and centre median grill installation, high-rise pedestrian crossing near BB junction, road marking and cat eye installation on the flyover have been suggested by the traffic police to avoid accidents at these spots. At least two fatal accidents have been reported at both spots in recent months, including two pedestrian fatalities.

Further down the highway, the installation of a high-rise pedestrian crossing (HRPC) has proven to be effective as there have not been any fatal accidents at the KSRTC junction in the last eight months against four fatal accidents which occurred at the spot in 2022. The police and the public agree that the 800 buses, which ply from the BMTC and KSRTC bus stands everyday, are a non-negligible part of the traffic woes at the junction. Many private buses also pass through the junction.

"There is a slope right after the signal as the vehicles move forward. As they approach the bus stand, they sometimes collide with the buses which suddenly enter the road or stop at undesignated spots to pick passengers. This problem needs to be addressed to avoid accidents," observed Anantha, a regular commuter on the route.

The Nayandahalli junction has had the highest number of fatal accidents (7) among the four black spots in the last three years. An official from the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station said: "This is a complex structure with the junction below and the Outer Ring Road and Purple line metro above it. The four roads leading to the junction have downward inclination which leads to overspeeding, especially of two-wheelers."

He further said: "The junction also sees the movement of huge trucks. Two-wheelers, often ridden by minors without licence, and others who refuse to follow lane discipline get in the way of these trucks and buses resulting in accidents." With the complexities involved in the junction, it is difficult to come up with comprehensive solutions for the junction, a BTP official remarked.

MYSURU ROAD

Black spots identified on the stretch

■ Up and down ramp at BB junction | ■ 600-metre stretch from AS Char Street to Jamia Masjid on the BGS flyover | ■ KSRTC junction | ■ Nayandahalli junction

Accident data between 2020 and 2022

Blackspot	No. of accidents				No. of fatal accidents				No. of grievous injuries			
Year	2020	2021	2022	Total	2020	2021	2022	Total	2020	2021	2022	Total
BB Junction	4	6	10	20	1	2	2	5	3	4	8	15
600 metres stretch on BGS flyover	1	3	3	7	1	2	0	3	0	1	3	4
KSRTC junction	2	2	7	11	0	0	4	4	2	0	3	5
Nayandahalli junction	5	0	12	17	1	0	6	7	4	0	6	10

Interventions suggested

Up and down ramp at BB junction
- Instal CCTV cameras
- Instal median grills
- Instal cautionary boards
- Undertake road marking
- Instal signage
- Instal cat eyes
- Instal high-rise pedestrian crossing
- Instal blinkers

600-metre stretch from AS Char Street to Jamia Masjid on the BGS flyover
- Install accident zone signboard
- Undertake road marking and install cat eyes
- Barrier wall that is visible at night
- Blinkers on flyover up ramp and down ramp
- Install left-merging signboards

KSRTC junction
- Install accident zone boards
- Install blinkers

Nayandahalli junction
- Install accident zone boards and go-slow boards
- Install blinkers

BBMP drops recording of immersion of plaster of Paris Ganesha idols

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A day after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) reported immersion of Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris (PoP), it has chosen to drop the same and plainly report immersion of idols without bifurcating data on earthen and PoP idols. The State government has banned PoP idols.

According to data shared by BBMP on Tuesday, 10,357 PoP idols were immersed in lakes, artificial immersion tanks, and mobile tanks across the city on September 18. This was despite the Karnataka government on September 15 issuing a stringent order banning manufacturing, sale, and immersion of PoP idols. The government in the order invoked Section 15(1) of Environment (Protection) Act under which five-year jail term and ₹1 lakh penalty is stipulated.

The data also corroborates that the BBMP, which also had issued guidelines banning PoP idols, is allowing the immersion in the city's water bodies violating the Government Order. After it reported about immersion of over 10,000 PoP idols, specific instructions were reportedly given to those recording idols not to tabulate the data of PoP idols separately, sources said.

Devotees watch Ganesha idols being immersed at Ulsoor lake in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

"Fearing action from the State government, the civic body has stopped tabulating data of PoP idols immersed separately. When Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre had issued the order banning PoP idols across the State, the city's civic body cannot allow its immersion. After the data of immersion of PoP idols was reported in the media on Tuesday, instructions were given not to tabulate or make public the data of PoP idols immersed separately," a senior civic official involved with the process of idol immersion in the city told *The Hindu*.

In the data the civic body shared on Wednesday, it only said 28,347 Ganesha idols were immersed in the city on Tuesday, but did not specify how many of them were PoP idols. However, chief civic commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said he was unaware of the entire development.

Now, Bannerghatta Biological Park reports death of 15 deer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the death of seven leopard cubs at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), 15 deer succumbed at the park over a period of time.

In August, a herd of deer were relocated from St. John's College premises to BBP by the Forest Department. "Of these, five deer succumbed to injuries due to infighting in August. On September 19, five deer were reported to have died and on September 20, five more died," said A.V. Surya Sen, Deputy Conservator of Forests and Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park.

The death of 10 deer in two days was due to bacterial infections. "The deer died due to gut-related issues," Mr. Sen said.

Recently, seven leopard cubs died at BBP after being infected by Feline panleukopenia, a highly contagious viral disease. Mr. Sen said that the deaths of the leopard cubs and the deer were not related.

Minister to visit

Following the recent death of animals at BBP, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre is expected to visit the park on Thursday to review the situation.

Flight delayed for hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A San Francisco-bound Air India flight was delayed for several hours at KIA on Wednesday. AI 175, which was scheduled to depart at 1.25 p.m., was delayed due to operational issues.

"Another reason is because the authorities at the San Francisco airport do not allow night landings," sources said. The flight is now scheduled to leave at 2.15 a.m. on Thursday.

Greenpeace India survey reveals support for expansion of bus lanes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greenpeace India in its latest report "Relying on bus: Studying the impacts of Bengaluru's bus lane on bus use" reveals that city's residents support Bus Priority Lanes (BPL).

According to a release, the report, which is based on an onboard survey of 979 bus users, was conducted between May and July 2022. The bus lane, which ran along the Outer Ringer Road (ORR) on a stretch of about 18.5 km, was discontinued since mid 2022.

The study shed light on the bus lane's positive effects on travel time and potential solutions to Bengaluru's air pollution crisis. According to the report, over 28% of existing bus users reported an improvement in travel time due to the bus lane. This improvement was particularly significant for those travelling longer distances, with 54% of respondents experiencing a reduction in travel time from 60-90 minutes to 30-60 minutes. Additionally, 82% of respondents found bus lanes to have a generally positive experience.

The survey further highlights the overwhelming desire of respondents for the introduction of more bus lanes throughout the city. A staggering 86% of respondents expressed their support for expanding the bus lane system, suggesting areas such as Hebbal, Tin Factory, Silk Board, Marathahalli, Whitefield, Electronics City, BTM Layout, Majestic, and K.R. Puram.

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If any persons, banks, financial intuitions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Approve residential Plot bearing No.14, Khata No. 485/14, PID No. 150200301500721144 measuring East to West 9.14 meters and North to South 15.24 meters, total measuring 139.3 Sq.mts. in the layout "VAISHNAVI TEMPLE TREES", formed as per approval No. KPA/LAO/36/2017-18/2479, Dt: 10/02/2023, in converted land bearing Sy. No. 106, vide its No. ALN (SU)/SR(K)/9/2017-18, dt:10/08/2017, KPA, situated at Gulakamale Village, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, and bounded on the : East by: Plot No.8 and 9 , West by : Road, North by: Plot No.15, South by : Plot No.13.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
# 96, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 4th Cross,
Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore- 68,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 20-09-2023

Meat shop owner among four held for robbing beef from transporter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Adugodi police have arrested four people, including a meat shop owner, who, posing as cow vigilantes, had abducted a meat transporter to rob beef from him on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Mohammed and his associates Madhu, Dinesh, and Karthik. According to the police, Mohammed who runs a meat shop in Ilyaz Nagar used to buy beef from Fayaz who used to transport the meat from Ramanagar.

As Mohammed was not regular with payment due to financial problems, Fayaz stopped supplying meat to Mohammed. Mohammed hatched a plan to rob the meat. Posing as cow vigilantes, Mashu Dinesh and Karthik abducted Fayaz tortured him, threatened to hand him over to the police and demanded ₹1 lakh. The accused robbed ₹10,000 from Fayaz and escaped with his truck. Since Fayaz was transporting meat illegally, the accused thought he would not complaint to the police. However, he approached the police.

All four have been booked for abduction, robbery, and criminal conspiracy.

YouTube channel booked for threatening Prakash Raj

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashok Nagar police has registered a case against those handling the YouTube channel TV Vikrama for allegedly threatening film actor Prakash Raj for his recent remarks on Sanatana Dharma.

Based on the complaint by the actor, the police charged those handling the channel for criminal intimidation and dissemination of rumour about a religion, language, or a community.

Mr. Raj, 58, in his complaint, said that TV Vikrama posted videos with messages provoking its viewers against him and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin stating: "Stalin and Prakash Raj must be finished, Are the Hindus still sleeping?" The police said they will issue notice to persons concerned for questioning.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: SNTPBBS-042023-CCTV Dt.: 18.09.2023

Name of the Work : PROVISION OF CCTV CAMERAS TO RECORD AUDIO VIDEO FOOTAGE AT 37 RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (RPF) POSTS (WALTAIR-14, KHURDA ROAD-15, SAMBALPUR-08) OVER EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Advertised Value: ₹ 2,13,57,234.65, EMD: ₹ 2,56,800/-, Completion Period: 09 months.

Tender closing date & time : at 1530 hrs. of 10.10.2023.

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Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/
PR-71/CG/23-24 Tele & NW/Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the General Public that the unregistered Agreement of Sale dated: 21.2.2022 and GPA dated: 26.11.2021 entered by our clients **1) Keku Raj** S/o Late. Siddamallaiah H.M **2) Sujatha** W/o. Keku Raj **3) Renuka Prasanna** S/o. Keku Raj **4) B.S. Nagaraju** S/o. H.M. Siddamallaiah **5) Gowramma,** W/o. B.S. Nagaraju **6) Amulya,** D/o. B.S. Nagaraju, all are R/at. Bidadi Main Road, Bidadi Hobli & Village, Ramanagara Tq. and Dist. With **H.S. Rajegowda** S/o. Shankaregowda, R/at. 2240/A, 'D' Group Layout, Nagarabhavi , Near Ashwa Restaurant, Blore-91, in respect of schedule property has been withdrawn and cancelled by our clients. General public are cautioned not to deal with the said purchaser on the strength of the said Sale Agreement, GPA and should anybody risk any transaction our clients will in no way be held liable thereof the schedule **Sy.No.6/8, Measuring 0.07 Guntas,** situated at **Bidadi Village / Hobli, Ramanagara Tq. & Dist.**

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Oldest yet fossils of a plant-eating dinosaur found in Rajasthan

IIT Roorkee scientists have characterised dinosaur fossils from the middle-Jurassic period, found in the Thar desert near the Jaisalmer Basin by the Geological Survey of India. The remains are those of a sauropod dinosaur, and happen to be the oldest known fossils of this particular sauropod

Rohini Subrahmanyam

Fossils associated with the backbone of *Tharosaurus indicus*. PRAGYA PANDEY

In a paper published recently in *Scientific Reports*, scientists from IIT Roorkee have characterised dinosaur fossils from the Middle Jurassic period, found in the Thar desert near the Jaisalmer Basin by the Geological Survey of India. They discovered that they had uncovered remains of a sauropod dinosaur, which is the same clade as the long-necked herbivores in *Jurassic Park* – only these happened to be the oldest known fossils of this particular kind of sauropod.

Belonging to the family *Dicraeosauridae* and from the superfamily *Diplodocoidea*, these fossils are the first dicraeosaurid sauropods to have been found in India. And at 167 million years old, they are the oldest known diplodocoid fossils in the world. The scientists named the dinosaur *Tharosaurus indicus*, with *Tharo* deriving from the Thar desert; *saurus* from the Greek 'sauros', or lizard; and *indicus* from its Indian origin. The fossils were found by Triparna Ghosh, Pragya Pandey, and Krishna Kumar from the Geological Survey of India.

167 million years old

"The most fascinating feature about sauropods is their size," said Debajit Datta, a postdoctoral researcher in Sunil Bajpai's group at IIT Roorkee and one of the lead authors of the paper. "They can grow more than a hundred feet. There are many sauropod groups that are even longer than the blue whale."

However, members of the *Dicraeosauridae* family of sauropods – to which *Tharasaurus* belongs – were not nearly as large. This family was unique: its members were smaller and had shorter necks and tails compared to the other long-necked sauropods.

Sauropods first appeared on the earth during the Jurassic period, about 200 million years ago. They were one of the most dominant clades of dinosaurs, surviving until the late Cretaceous period 65 million years ago, when dinosaurs went extinct.

'Somewhat of an enigma'

But strangely, in India, while sauropod fossils from the Early Jurassic and the Late Cretaceous period have been found, very few have from the Middle or Late Jurassic period, which would be about 160-180 million years ago.

"The Middle Jurassic remains somewhat of an enigma," said Advait Jukar, a palaeontologist at the University of Arizona. "Part of the reason is that we don't have as many exposed rocks from this time period. We also have not put in a lot of effort into exploring these rocks in places where they are exposed, like in India."

India has also been home to a few early, more primitive sauropods, like *Kotasaurus* and *Barapasaurus*. They were both discovered in the Kota Formation, a geological rock unit in Telangana, from the Early Jurassic period. "We have extremely primitive sauropods, and now we have a dicraeosaur, which is more evolved," Dr. Datta said. "When we see this in conjunction with the arrangement of the continents in the Middle Jurassic, things start to get interesting."

Importance of Indian landmass

Some 167 million years ago when *Tharosaurus* lived, India was not where it is now; it was part of a group of continents in the southern hemisphere with Africa, South America, Madagascar, and Antarctica, together called Gondwanaland. "Considering the fact that we already have more primitive sauropods in India and now the oldest diplodocoid, it is highly likely that India was the site of radiation of these diplodocoid dinosaurs to other parts of the world," Dr. Datta said.

The scientists reasoned that these diplodocoid sauropods could have originated in India during the Middle Jurassic period and used the land connections at the time to migrate to Madagascar, Africa, and South America. After that they could have made their way to North America and the rest of the world.

Another piece of evidence that supports their theory was that diplodocoid fossils in other continents like Africa, the Americas, and Asia come from a younger geological interval. This increases the possibility that the Indian landmass was the site for the *Tharosaurus*' early radiation.

That along with the fact that archaic sauropod fossils from during the start of the Jurassic period – like of *Kotasaurus* and *Barapasaurus* – were also found in India suggests that this diplodocoid group of sauropods could have evolved and originated in India.

"This discovery of a new dinosaur from the Middle Jurassic in Rajasthan should not be seen in isolation; it must be looked at in conjunction with previously discovered dinosaurs in India," Dr. Bajpai said. "Together, the record from India suggests that the Indian landmass was one of the most important places for the early evolutionary history of sauropod dinosaurs."

More fossils needed

Dr. Bajpai cautioned, however, that this was only the beginning. They didn't find the whole skeleton but parts of the backbone of the dinosaur. "A lot more needs to be discovered. Our science is such that with each new discovery, ideas change, and sometimes even identifications change."

"In the Middle Jurassic, when *Tharosaurus* lived, the continents were beginning to split apart from the supercontinent Pangea, and as these dinosaurs spread, they evolved into new forms," said Dr. Jukar. "A caveat here is that the fossil record of Middle Jurassic diplodocoids is comparatively poor, and that will heavily influence how we view their evolution and spread. For example, if we find one that's even older than *Tharosaurus* in, say, Russia, we'll have to re-evaluate our geographic hypotheses."

Dr. Jukar is impressed with the finding, but like Dr. Bajpai, believes that more fossils need to be found. More fossils of different parts of the *Tharosaurus* skeleton or of other related skeletons will help us better understand endemic sauropod evolution in India and global sauropod evolution and biogeography.

"I think *Tharosaurus* is a remarkable find, but it is very fragmentary," according to Dr. Jukar. "It's only once we have a better fossil record, not only geographically, but also in terms of fossil completeness, that we can start to get a clear picture of what sauropod evolution was doing during this crucial time in earth history."

> Sauropods first appeared on the earth during the Jurassic period, about 200 million years ago. They were one of the most dominant clades of dinosaurs, surviving until the late Cretaceous period

In 2006, an Indo-German team found another middle Jurassic sauropod dinosaur fossil in the Kutch basin of Gujarat, named *Camarasaurus supremus*, which was also the oldest fossil of that group found at the time. There have been subsequent finds of extremely old sauropod fossils in the region by the same team since.

'Extremely rare'

Dr. Bajpai said that more work and more expeditions will need to be undertaken in the Jaisalmer area. "This is a potentially important area for the Middle Jurassic dinosaurs in India."

"Indian dinosaurs are extremely rare," said Dr. Jukar. "It's not because they didn't exist; it's because we haven't had the same level of palaeontological interest and investment that we've seen in other countries like the U.S., Canada, or China."

Dr. Bajpai echoed this sentiment, emphasising the need for more attention on paleontological discoveries, specifically given the lack of natural history museums. "We definitely need not one but many natural history museums ... given the vast fossil wealth of our country."

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist)

This picture obtained on Tuesday from *Nature* magazine shows pink diamonds, which were found at the Argyle mine. AFP

An ancient landmass broke-up, giving us pink diamonds

Agence France Presse

Scientists said on Tuesday they have found the "missing ingredient" for pink diamonds, some of the world's most expensive stones due their rarity and beauty, and the discovery could help find more.

More than 90% of all the pink diamonds ever found were discovered at the recently closed Argyle mine in the remote northwest of Australia.

But exactly why Argyle, which unlike most other diamond mines doesn't sit in the middle of a continent but on the edge

The immense pressure that twisted colour into the diamonds occurred during collisions between western Australia and northern Australia 1.8 billion years ago

of one, produced so many pink gems has remained a mystery.

In a new study published in the journal *Nature Communications*, a team of Australia-based researchers said the pink diamonds were brought to the earth's surface by the break-up of the first supercontinent around 1.3 billion years ago.

Hugo Olierook, a researcher at Curtin University in the state of Western Australia and the study's lead author, told AFP that two of the three ingredients for forming pink diamonds had already been known.

The first ingredient is carbon, and it must be more than 150 km deep. The second is just the right amount of pressure, to damage the otherwise clear diamonds.

The missing ingredient was the event that sent the diamonds shooting up to the surface.

The researchers used a laser thinner than a human hair to probe tiny crystals in an Argyle rock sample supplied by the mine's owner, Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto.

By measuring the age of elements in the crystals, the researchers determined that Argyle was 1.3 billion years old. That lines up with the break-up of the world's first supercontinent, known as Nuna. In Nuna, "just about every single landmass on the earth was squashed together," Olierook said.

The immense pressure that twisted colour into the diamonds occurred during collisions between western Australia and northern Australia 1.8 billion years ago. When Nuna started to break up 500 million years later, it re-aggravated the "scar" from that event, Olierook said. Magma shot up through this old scar "like a champagne cork going off", taking the diamonds along for the ride, he added. Over the last 200 years, people have mostly looked for diamonds in the centre of massive continents. But knowing the "missing ingredient" for pink diamonds could assist future efforts to find the rare stones, Olierook said.

Old mountain belts marking Nuna's breakup near the edges of continents have the potential to be home to a new "pink diamond paradise", he said, naming Canada, Russia, southern Africa and Australia as possible locations.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

A star's life is always nothing less than stellar

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The most common type of star in the universe is the main sequence star. The name comes from the fact that in a graph of a star's brightness versus its colour, main sequence stars lie along a prominent diagonal band. What is this graph called?

QUESTION 2

The abundance of elements produced in a star increases up to the atomic number of X, and then declines. This is partly because X is the lightest element for whose nuclear fusion produces less energy than it consumes. Name X.

QUESTION 3

When a star of low to medium mass runs out of helium, it will need to fuse carbon, which requires a core temperature of at least 1 billion K. If the star lacks this temperature, its outer layers will be shed, leaving behind an inert core. What is this core called?

QUESTION 4

When the core of a very heavy star collapses due to its own gravity, it can form a neutron star. What is the upper limit of the mass of a neutron star called?

QUESTION 5

For some very heavy stars, scientists have predicted an unusual kind of supernova when they run out of fuel. In this event, the star undergoes a partial collapse, kickstarting a thermonuclear reaction that completely blows up the star. What is such a supernova called?

Answers to September 14 quiz:
1. German engineer who built first train powered by electricity – **Ans: Werner von Siemens**
2. Older design on which George Westinghouse, Jr. improved – **Ans: Straight air brake**
3. Modern version of the trolley pole – **Ans: Pantograph**
4. Last country to dieselise its locomotives – **Ans: China**
5. Collective name for trains powered by hydrogen – **Ans: Hydrail**

Visual: **TGV POS**

First contact: Yasir Manoor | Harsha Makkuva | Ridhi Trailokya

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Visual: Name this nebula, at whose centre lies a famous pulsating neutron star that greatly advanced scientists' understanding of how big stars die. HST/CXC, NASA

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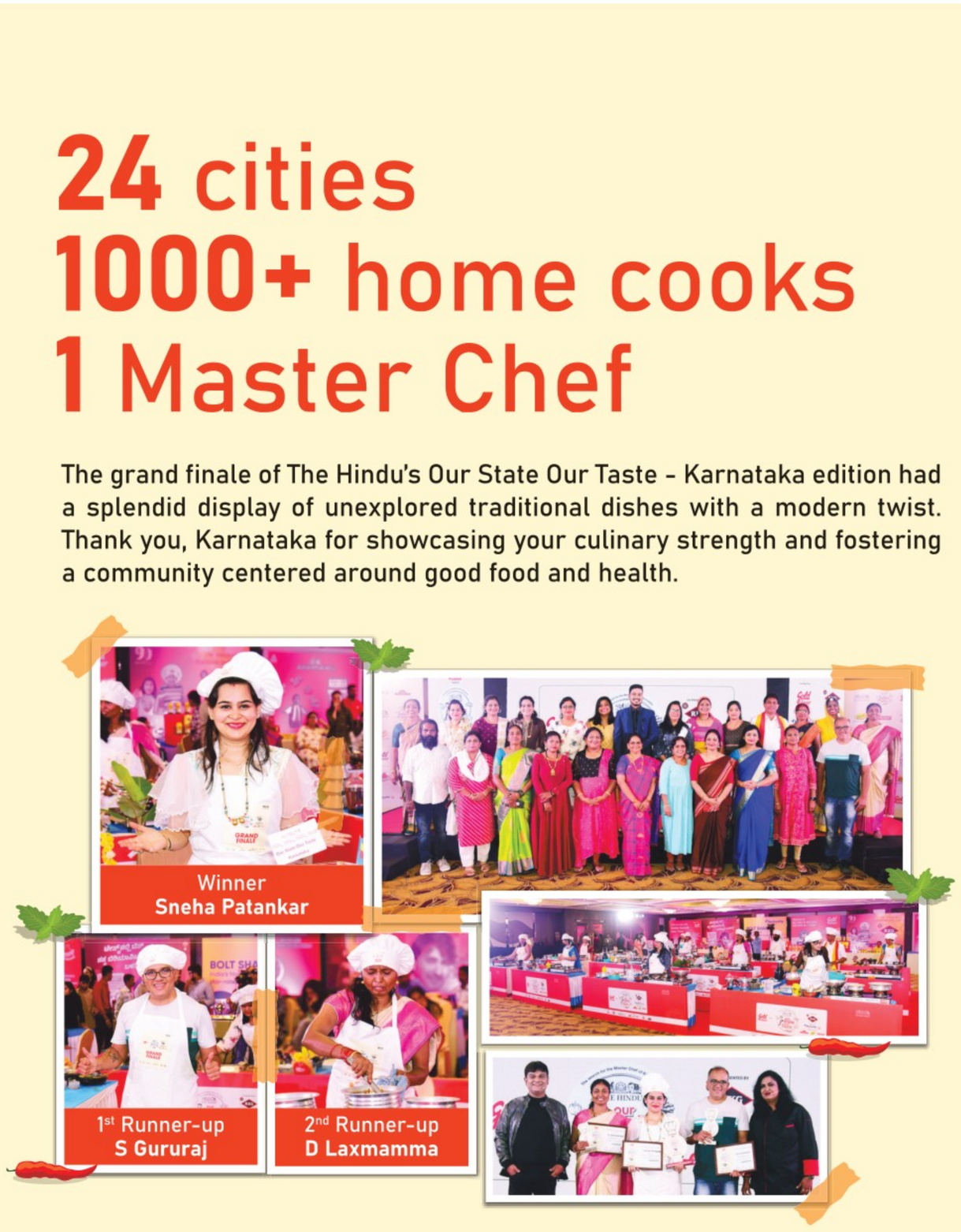
The grand finale of The Hindu's Our State Our Taste - Karnataka edition had a splendid display of unexplored traditional dishes with a modern twist. Thank you, Karnataka for showcasing your culinary strength and fostering a community centered around good food and health.



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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of patients under hypertension treatment in India

5.8 million. Patients with hypertension are being treated under the Indian Hypertension Control Initiative, across 27 States, as of June 2023, the World Health Organization said in a recent report. PTI

Members added under the health insurance scheme of ESIC in July

19.88 in lakh. Around 27,870 new establishments were registered and brought under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in July, according to Labour Ministry data. PTI

The number of electric buses to be deployed in India

10,000 India and the U.S. will collaborate on a project to deploy made-in-India electric buses in Indian cities, the U.S. embassy informed. REUTERS

Number of mineral exploration projects approved by NMET

309 The National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) has approved projects worth ₹2,100 crore. Of the projects approved, 151 have been completed, while the rest are in progress. PTI

The women MPs who took part in Women's Reservation Bill debate

27 They participated in the debate, cutting across party lines, on the women's reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha. There are 82 women MPs in Parliament. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A review of Pakistan's higher judiciary

Though interspersed with brief bouts of independence, Pakistan's Supreme Court has always fallen in line, whenever threatened by unforeseen outcomes of political engineering by the omnipotent military establishment

FULL CONTEXT

Rana Banerji

The retirement of Justice Umar Ata Bandial as the 28th Chief Justice (CJ) of Pakistan's Supreme Court on September 16 brings to a close one of the murkiest chapters in the history of an institution which has remained blemished due to its cyclical bouts of adherence to, or resistance against, the doctrine of necessity.

Law of necessity

According to Henry de Bracton, a 13th century medieval jurist, the doctrine of necessity means "that which is otherwise not lawful is made lawful by necessity". In Pakistan, this doctrine was first used in the *Federation of Pakistan versus Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan* case (1955), when the Federal Court of Pakistan (now the Supreme Court) headed by CJ Muhammad Munir upheld Governor General Ghulam Muhammad's dismissal of Prime Minister Khawaja Nazimuddin's government. Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, president of the Constituent Assembly, had challenged the Governor General's actions in the Sindh High Court, which struck down the Governor General's order.

Thereafter in 1958, through the *Dosso versus Federation of Pakistan*, the Supreme Court upheld Dosso's conviction for murder under the Frontier Crimes Regulation, 1901 (FCR), even though the Lahore High Court had ruled that the FCR did not fall under the 1956 Constitution. Martial law imposed by President Iskander Mirza was indirectly validated. In the *Asma Jilani versus State of Punjab case* 1972, Justice Hamoodur Rahman held Yahya Khan's martial law as illegal. Asma Jilani Jahangir was a famous human rights activist in Pakistan. This paved the way for the restoration of democracy in the country.

However, in the *Begum Nusrat Bhutto versus Chief of the Army Staff* case in 1977, the Supreme Court validated the imposition of martial law under the doctrine of necessity. The pattern was repeated over the Junejo government dismissal in the *Haji Saifullah* case, 1988 and in the sacking of the Benazir government by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August, 1990 (*Ahmed Tariq Rahim versus Federation of Pakistan*).

The practice also emerged of martial law dispensers getting judges to swear fresh oaths of allegiance under Provisional Constitutional Orders (PCOs), so that they would enable the disruption of constitutional provisions. Only a few 'braver' judges dissented. Therefore, there were PCO judges and non-PCO judges in different political regimes.

The impact of the lawyers' movement

In March, 2007, Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry defied the orders of General Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan and Army Chief, after which he was summarily dismissed over misconduct and corruption charges connected to his son, Arsalan. Mr. Chaudhry's cause was taken up in a countrywide lawyers' agitation which led to his reinstatement two years later. Much has been made of this milestone in Pakistan's judicial history, signifying a standing up against the military establishment. However, Mr. Chaudhry's tenure as CJ brought in other malpractices like discriminatory and arbitrary appointments, based on personal loyalties.

The military establishment continued to play a role in the decisions of the judiciary. In April 2017, once the Army decided to get rid of sitting Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, CJ Saqib Nisar disqualified him from holding public office for life in the *Imran Ahmed Khan Niazi versus Muhammad Nawaz Sharif* case, otherwise known as the Panamagate case, over non-disclosure of an *iqama* (fee agreement). The legal soundness of this judgment has remained questionable. Moreover, Mr. Nisar's unwarranted forays into health management or creation of a fund for building dams has also raised eyebrows.

An attempt was again made in November, 2019 when CJ Asif Khosa set the cat among the pigeons by making several disparaging remarks on the proclivity of generals to give themselves 'year after year' of extensions. Describing his order as an 'exercise in judicial restraint', Mr. Khosa suspended the extension given to General Qamar Javed Bajwa as Army Chief by Prime Minister Imran Khan earlier in the year. He also extracted an undertaking from the Attorney General to amend laws pertaining to the Army Chief's appointment. Thus, in January 2020, the Army Act, 1952 was amended by consensus, factoring in age related extensions in the tenure of Service Chiefs, Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC).

The reign of CJ Bandial

Mr. Bandial's tenure was plagued by the selective assignment of judges to benches and the isolating of two senior most judges, Justices Qazi Faez Isa and Tariq Masood from case work, while Justices Ijazul Ahsan and Munib Akhtar were overtly favoured and assisted him in politically sensitive cases. The Bandial Court was publicly perceived to be openly partial to ousted PM Imran Khan. All encompassing anticipatory bail was given in the plethora of cases filed against him. Even when Mr. Khan was arrested in May, and brought to court under the custody of a posse of Pakistan Rangers, CJ Bandial made sure that the former PM was quickly released on bail by a lower court. In the *Toshakhana* case, Mr. Bandial sought to intervene even as appeal proceedings were pending before the Islamabad High Court.

Furthermore, allegations on complicity in bench fixing and corruption among Supreme Court Judges emerged in audio leaks. Instead of recusing from the Bench, as audios of his mother-in-law were included, the CJ reserved judgment and sat over the case for three months before issuing a 32 page long-winded order, dismissing it as a challenge against judicial independence. The schisms within the current 15-member Court came out into the open, with judges on his own Bench questioning the power of the Chief Justice's 'one-man show'.

For example, new law was written into Article 63A of the 1973 Constitution, wherein votes cast under a whip by the parliamentary party leader were deemed valid, not that of the party's head. This seemed contrary to the powers given under Article 95 for a 'conscience' vote during a no-confidence motion. This ruling enabled the ouster of the Pakistan Muslim League (N)'s Hamza Shehbaz-led provincial government in Punjab and its replacement by a pro-Imran dispensation under Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi.

Similarly, when a Bench led by Qazi Faez Isa ruled in March, against the powers of the Supreme Court to initiate suo moto proceedings under Article 184 (2), CJ Bandial overruled this judgment. When the Shehbaz Sharif coalition government legislated later to amend these powers under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, Mr. Bandial ruled the Act as `beyond the legislative competence of Parliament'.

The way forward

In the fractious backdrop of a burgeoning executive-judiciary conflict, the 64-year-old Qazi Faez Isa was designated Pakistan's new Chief Justice in July, almost two months before Mr. Bandial's retirement. Mr. Isa has had multiple run-ins with the federal, civilian and military establishment. In the Quetta Commission report (2016) constituted by the Supreme Court of Pakistan under Article 184(3) to investigate the August 8 terrorist attacks in Quetta, he commented adversely on ineptitude, particularly of the Interior Minister, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan.

After the Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP)'s sit-in demonstrations at Faizabad Mor paralysed public life, Justice Isa criticised, in February 2019, 'excesses' of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Military Intelligence (MI) in first fostering and later, dispersing the protestors. This led to the filing of a reference against him in the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) by the Imran Khan government.

Surviving these obstacles in appearances before the SJC, and despite feet dragging by a reluctant Mr. Bandial after the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) government withdrew the reference, Mr. Qazi Faez Isa has now taken over as CJ, albeit for a short, one year term (till October, 2024). He would have to focus on selecting one new judge to complete the 17-member court and address contentious judgments on constitutional and administrative powers.

Though there is a seeming constitutional impasse over fresh delimitation of constituencies after a new Census, Mr. Isa will have to take a call on the 90-day deadline for holding fresh elections, so that the caretaker government's tenure does not get inordinately extended.

In sum, though interspersed with brief bouts of independence, Pakistan's higher judiciary has fallen in line, whenever threatened by unforeseen outcomes of political engineering by the omnipotent military establishment. CJ Isa's tenure at least holds the promise of a return to a more principled interpretation of basic law tenets, preserving the sanctity of Pakistan's only consensus document, the 1973 Constitution.

The writer is former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

Towards justice: The Supreme Court of Pakistan in Islamabad, Pakistan. REUTERS

THE GIST

According to Henry de Bracton, a 13th century medieval jurist, the doctrine of necessity means "that which is otherwise not lawful is made lawful by necessity".

Mr. Bandial's tenure was plagued by the selective assignment of judges to benches. The Bandial Court was publicly perceived to be openly partial to ousted PM Imran Khan.

Mr. Qazi Faez Isa has now taken over as CJ, albeit for a short, one year term (till October, 2024). He would have to focus on selecting one new judge to complete the 17-member court and address contentious judgments on constitutional and administrative powers.

Unauthorised vendors take advantage of Transport Dept. making HSRP must to hawk lookalike number plates

A notification made it mandatory to install high security registration plate on 2 crore vehicles registered prior to April 2019

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Transport Department's order to fix high-security registration plate (HSRP) on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, has raised new concerns. Many unauthorised HSRP manufacturers in Karnataka have been fixing illegal HSRP number plates due to a lack of awareness about the order, according to Association of Registration Plates Manufacturers of India.

In August, a notification and circular issued by Karnataka Transport Department made it mandatory to install High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) on two crore vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019. The deadline given by the department to install the HSRPs was November 17, 2023. Association of Registration Plates Manufacturers of India alleged that many vehicle owners have been fixing HSRP through unauthorised dealers or manufacturers.

Sudhir Goyal, Executive Member and spokesperson of the association, told *The Hindu*, "Many are installing lookalike HSRPs, IND mark or get INDIA inscribed on their number plate through roadside vendors. This is illegal. These are not authorised HSRP. Motorists should get the number plates only from the vehicle manufacturer, or from authorised dealers."

A number plate being displayed at a press meet by the Akhila Karnataka Vehicle Number Plates Manufacturers' and Sellers' Association in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

In its notification, the Transport Department warned of legal action against dealers or any other person found to be selling or supplying HSRP in Karnataka without being authorised by the OEMs.

Mr Goyal said, "In June 2023, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had written to all the State transport departments to take punitive action, including blacklisting or termination against such unauthorised HSRP agencies, which are openly supplying unauthorised HSRP number plates in the market to unsuspecting vehicle owners."

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the action will be taken if any illegal HSRPs are installed. "We have mandated all vehicles, especially vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019 to get HSRP number plates. The notification is issued as per the guidelines of the Central Government. Legal action will be taken against dealers or vendors making duplicate HSRP or lookalike HSRP number plates," Mr Reddy told *The Hindu*.

The Akhila Karnataka Vehicle Number Plates Manufacturers and Sellers' Association has opposed the decision of installing HSRPs. They claim that the livelihood of around 25,000 persons and their families, who are engaged in selling number plates in Karnataka, will be hit if HSRPs are fixed only through dealers of vehicle manufacturers.

Satish S., president of the association, told *The Hindu*, "Over 50% of our members have been involved in the number plate business for the past three decades. They are unable to transition to other jobs at this point. If the government does not rescind the circular, they will face hardships."

How to get high-security number plate

Visit https://transport.karnataka.gov.in or http://www.siam.in and click book HSRP

- Choose your vehicle manufacturer
- Fill in basic vehicle details
- Choose a dealer location as per your convenience for affixation of HSRP
- Pay the HSRP fee online. No payment is to be made in cash
- An OTP will be sent to the mobile number of the vehicle owner
- Choose the date and time of affixation as per your convenience
- Visit any of your vehicle manufacturers/dealers
- The deadline for HSPR affixation is November 17, 2023

SOURCE: Karnataka Transport Department

Three killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three people, including two pedestrians, were killed in separate road accidents reported in the city on Tuesday.

A 61-year-old pedestrian was killed when a speeding scooter knocked him down on 12th main in Wilson Garden on Tuesday night. The deceased Venugopal, a resident of Siddhapura, was returning home when the incident occurred.

Case registered

In a similar incident, a 45-year-old unidentified man was killed when a speeding truck knocked him down at SRS junction, Peenya. The Peenya traffic police have registered a case and are investigating further to ascertain the identity of the deceased.

Rash driving

In another incident, a 24-year-old motorcycle rider was killed when a speeding goods vehicle knocked down his vehicle on Bannerghatta junction in Mico Layout police station limits on Tuesday night. The deceased has been identified as Solomon, a resident of Hanumantha Nagar. The police have registered a case of death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving against the truck driver.

INBRIEF

Pomegranate thieves arrested

The Chickballapur police on Tuesday arrested two labourers and recovered over three tonnes of pomegranate they had stolen and sold to fruits vendors. The accused used to steal pomegranates from the plantations Sadenahalli and Ajjawara villages in the outskirts of Chickballapur and sell it to fruit vendors at throwaway prices. Based on two complaints, the police formed a team who patrolled the area at night and arrested K.B. Raju, 23, and K. Srinath, 18, dailywage labourers. Based on their information, the police detained Syed Mansoor, 40, and S. Nanjunda, 46, fruit vendors, and recovered the pomegranates along with ₹1.5 lakh cash. The accused have been booked for theft.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 21, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- A review of Pakistan's higher judiciary **bit.ly/pakistanjudiciary**
- Oldest yet fossils of a plant-eating dinosaur found in Rajasthan **bit.ly/dinosaurfossilsrajasthan**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, SEP. 21		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:17
RISE	11:10	SET 22:43
FRIDAY, SEP. 22		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:16
RISE	12:09	SET 23:40
SATURDAY, SEP. 23		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:15
RISE	13:11	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	23
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Two police officials booked for abetting suicide of man

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police inspector of Vyalikaval Police Station and another official from Hennur Police Station are among five people booked by the Thalaghattapura police for abetment to suicide, following the death of a 47-year-old loan document verification executive who ended his life due to alleged harassment, on Wednesday.

Based on the complaint filed by Vinutha, wife of the deceased, the Thalaghattapura police registered an FIR against the accused.

The deceased Nagaraju V., a resident of Raghavanahalli, was working at a private agency owned by Sanaulla in Peenya after he retired as technician.

On Tuesday, he returned home depressed stating that he was detained at Vyalikaval police station and tortured over a financial row. Nagaraju told Vinutha that he was called again for questioning and was scared to go to the police station. Vinutha advised him to go and face the inquiry and left for her job.

A few hours later, she received a message on her mobile phone from Nagaraju, apologising for the extreme step he was taking and bidding adieu and asked her to take care of their minor son. Vinutha found a note mentioning the names of Sanaulla, Nataraju, Eregowda, and Shivakumar, an official attached to Hennur Police Station, and the inspector of Vyalikawal Police Station.

He said he owed ₹9 lakh to one Devaraju over which he was being harassed. He also claimed that he had paid ₹8 lakh to Shivakumar attached with Hennur Police Station.

(Those having distress or suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on 104 for help).

BBMP report recommends building new, spacious quality control lab

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The technical inquiry report into the fire accident that occurred at the Quality Control Lab on August 8 has recommended that the civic body set up a new laboratory as the current facility is housed in a small space. The new laboratory building is proposed to be built in front of Naukarara Bhavana on the premises of BBMP head office.

The BBMP had roped in experts to evaluate the facility and the team was led by K.N. Subramanya, principal, R.V. College of Engineering. The team inspected the facility on September 8 and later submitted its recommendations which are part of the probe report.

The report said the experts jointly opined that the laboratory is housed in a very small space and is not adequate as per standard specifications. The experts suggested that there should be a circular space around each equipment for each person working on the equipment while conducting the test.

The experts also opined that the mezzanine floor constructed out of steel fabrication over the laboratory roof was an ill-conceived idea. The laboratory roof should have a minimum height of 12 feet to 14 feet with cross entries and ventilation. This indicates that poor ventilation further worsened the situation during the fire. The experts also pointed out that small windows blocked the free passage of smoke that erupted due to the fire. The team concluded that the present laboratory should be immediately disused.

The report recommended that ground and the mezzanine floor of the present facility may be used as office space.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUDUKKOTTAI MUNICIPALITY

Roc.No. 2866/2022/E2 — AMRUT 2023-2024 TENDER NOTICE — Dated:-19.09.2023

Bid is invited by the Municipal Commissioner, Pudukkottai for the execution of Underground sewerage works omitted area, under AMRUT 2.0 scheme 2023-24 in Pudukkottai Municipality (Two cover system) 1. Work value :- 1. Package-1 Rs.7000.00 Lakhs 2. Earnest Money Deposit Amount 1. Package-1. Rs.70,00,000/- 3. Bid document can be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in at free of cost and the full details of the tenders can be had from the above website. 4.Common date & time

1	Date Time and Venue for the pre-bid meeting	04.10.2023 - 11.00 AM
2	Date and time for downloading bid document	22.09.2023 from 3.00 PM
3	Last Date and time for submission of bid document, including online submission	26.10.2023 upto 3.00 PM
4	Date and time of opening of the Technical Bid	26.10.2023 at 3.30 PM

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

DIPR/ 5172/Tender/2023 — Commissioner, Pudukkottai Municipality

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536789/26096834 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NHMPP/1500CUM_ETP_CALL3/2023-24 — Date: 19-09-2023

RETENDER NOTIFICATION [Two Cover System]
[THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tenders from the eligible contractors/ suppliers/ manufacturers through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the work mentioned in the table below. The interested and reputed contractors / suppliers / manufacturers who have executed similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com and helpline no. +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777, 080-22230960, 080-22234115

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (in Rs.)	Period of Contract
1	Biannual Rate Contract For Providing Manpower For Operation And Maintenance Of 1500 KLPD Capacity Effluent Treatment Plant At Nandini Hitech Mega Powder Plant At Kannamangala Village, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District	1 Job	1,50,000/-	24 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated **21-09-2023 to 07-10-2023 up to 4-00 pm**.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: **07-10-2023 up to 4.00 pm**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **09-10-2023 at 4.30 pm**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/-
Director [Engineering-1]

AVADI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E - TENDER INVITING NOTICE
National Competitive Bidding

Roc.No. 4916/2022/E2 — Date : 20.09.2023

The Corporation Commissioner, Avadi invites through two cover system bids from the eligible and qualified contractors for the following works as detailed in the table given below:

Sl. No	Packages	Bid Security	Tender document available	Tender Closing Date & Time	Tender Opening	Period of Completion
1	AMRUT 2.0 fund Construction and operation & maintenance for 5 years of Under Ground Sewerage System For left out areas In Avadi city municipal corporation. (Phase-1)	Rs. 83.30 Lakhs	From 22.09.2023 (10.00 a.m.) to 26.10.2023 (3.00 p.m)	26.10.2023 (3.00 p.m.)	26.10.2023 (3.30 p.m.)	24 Months

Pre- Bid conference **04.10.2023 at 11.00 a.m.**
Place : Avadi City Municipal Corporation Office, Avadi, Chennai- 54.
Tender document and schedule available in website **https://tntenders.gov.in** can be downloaded from 10.00 a.m. on **22.09.2023 to 26.10.2023 3.00** p.m. The Bid Security and EMD 1% will be received by the Commissioner e-submission only up to **26.10.2023, 3.00** p.m.
For other details contact e-mail address: commr.avadi@tn.gov.in Contact No.044-26552515 / 26554440

DIPR/5194/Tender/2023 — Commissioner, Avadi City Municipal Corporation.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, USHA Nagarajan W/o Venkataramanan.L, No.67, 2nd Cross, Lake Shore Garden, Thindlu, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bluru-97 have changed my name to Usha Venkataramanan vide affidavit dated: 20.09.23 before Notary A.C.Subbu Swamy, Blore.

I, NEELAM, W/o JC-300000Y Ex-SUB (CLK) Rampal Singh Gusain, presently residing at No.12, 4th Main, 2nd 'B' Cross, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyan Nagar PO, Bangalore, Karnataka-560043 have changed my name from Neelam to Neelam Gusain and my correct date of birth is 18/5/1969 vide affidavit dated. 19/9/2023 before Notary S.I.Balaguru, Bangalore.

I, SHAILA S, S/o. Satish, r/at #44, Muttappa Badavane, 6th Cross, Chikkammanahalli, Bannergatta Main Road, Bangalore-560068, have changed my name as Sanju S and changed my gender from female to male, vide affidavit dtd 12.04.2023 sworn before Notary Leela, Bluru

I, SALAM Ehsanullah S/o Abdul Salam residing at No.39, 3rd Floor, Royal Pearl,3rd Cross, 1st Main, S.K. Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Ehsanullah vide affidavit dated 15-09-2023 before S. Ramesh Notary, Bengaluru.

I, UMSALEEMA Ehsanullah W/o Ehsanullah residing at No.39, 3rd Floor, Royal Pearl, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, S.K.Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Umsaleema vide affidavit dated 15-09-2023 before S. Ramesh Notary, Bengaluru.

I, FATHIMA Ehsan W/o Saifudeen Shanmugam residing at No.39, 3rd Floor, Royal Pearl, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, S.K.Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Fathima Ehsanulla vide affidavit dated 15-09-2023 before S. Ramesh Notary, Bengaluru.

I, ZUNERA W/o Inamul Hassan residing at No.10, Banath Street, Rashad Nagar, Bengaluru-560045 have changed my name to Zunera Mansur Ahmed vide affidavit dated 20-09-2023 before Meer Hassan Notary, Bengaluru.

I, FAROOQ Ahamed Razvi, R/o Mallandur Road, Uppalli New Extension, Near Almadani Masjid Road, Chikmagalur-577101 have changed my name from Farooq Ahamed Razvi to Farooq Ahmed Razvi vide affidavit dated 20-09-2023 before Notary M. Rajendra, Bangalore.

I, Sudhakar alias Sudhakara C S/o Chennappa Poojary, residing at #103, Mattikatte, Heggodlu, Chikmagalur, Karnataka - 577113, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jayan C.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE TO CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Kum. Aatmajaa**, Aged about 23 years, Residing at No. 19/1, 3rd Cross, Shankarpura, Bangalore – 560004, presently completing my BBA and LLB course, do hereby change my name from **'Aatmajaa' to 'Aatmajaa Shankar Prasad'** with immediate effect.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS to bring to your kind notice that, K. Gulzar Begaum, D/O M.K.Kader Basha Residing at No 302 11th Main Narasipura Layout Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 560097 our site Sale Deed is Missing since 20th January 2023. (Site No 28, Assessment No 46/4/5/6/7, Khata no 46/4/5/6/7/28 Shivakote Village, Muthugadahallli village, Hesaraghatta Hobli Bangalore North Taluk). If found kindly return to the above address or Vidyaranyapura police station.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XLIV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-45)
O.S. No. 281/1999

BETWEEN : Smt. R. Jayamma @ Jaya D/o Late Sri Ramaiah Reddy & W/o Sri M.G. Narayan Since deceased Represented by her Legal Representatives
1(a) Sri. M.G. Narayan, Aged about 65 years, S/o late M. Govindan,
1(b) Sri. B.N. Vinay Kumar, Aged about 33 years, S/o Sri. M.G. Narayan
Both residing at No. 155, 10th Main Road, JRD TATA Nagar, Kodigehalli, Bangalore - 560 092. ...PLAINTIFF
AND : Sri. L. Muni Reddy & Ors.
...DEFENDANTS

SUIT SUMMONS TO PROPOSED DEFENDANT No. 18

18. B.N. Jagadish Kumar, S/o Sri. M.G. Narayan, aged about 43 years, R/at. 155, 10th Main Road, J.R.D. Tata Nagar, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru - 560 092.

Whereas the Lr's of the Plaintiff, above named, has instituted an Original Suit No. 281/1999 against Sri. L. Muni Reddy & Others praying that the Hon'ble Court be pleased to pass a judgement and decree for the relief of partition and possession against the Defendants and it is pending before the Hon'ble CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-45), You i.e., **SRI. B.N. Jagadish Kumar,** are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through advocate **on 7th day of October 2023 at 11.00 a.m.** Take note that in default of your appearance on that day the time above mentioned, you shall be placed Ex-parte and the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. 1: All that piece and parcel of site with buildings bearing Site No.2, Old Ward No.7, Now New ward No.45, (P.I.D.No.7-78-2) measuring East to West of about 105 feet and North to South of about 80 feet comprising one RCC roof house with the plinth area of about 3000 sqft and three asbestos sheet roof houses, provided with civic amenities such as water and electricity, that situates in 1st Main Road, 2nd Cross, Subedarpalya, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, with the following boundaries:

East by : Pillamma's house, **West by :** Property belongs to Muniyamma, Presently that of Sri V. Srinivasa Murthy, **North by :** Private Property, **South by :** 2nd Cross Road.

ITEM No. 2: All that piece and parcel of schedule property of residential house property bearing Khatha No.30, Door No.17/1, 17/2 and 17/3 situated at Old Division No.2, Old Ward No.7, Now New Ward No.45, (P.I.D. No. 7-79-30) measuring East to West 40' feet and North to South 32' feet situated in 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Subedarpalya, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, bounded on the:

East by : Road, **West by :** Vacant Site, **North by :** Muniswamy Reddy's House, **South by :** Shankar Sing's House.

ITEM No. 3 : Vacant Site measuring East to West 30' feet and North to South 45' feet, Old Ward No. 7, Now New Ward No. 45, situated in 1st Main Road, 3rd Cross, Subedarpalya, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, bounded on the :

East by : Shankarsingh's House and Muni Reddy's House, **West by :** Private Property, **North by :** Muniswamy Reddy's House, **South by :** Devanna's House.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 8th day of September 2023.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.
Advocate for Plaintiff :
Siddharth Suman, Advocate
No. 206, 80 Feet Road, 6th Cross, RMV 2nd Stage, 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560 094.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL (MACT) at TINDIVANAM
MACTOP:263/2022
RAMALINGAM,
S/o.Thulasi, No.1/52, Pillaiyar Koil St., Kattarampakkam Village, Vanur TK., Villupuram Dt. Tamilnadu
---- Petitioner
---- VS----
Shankar Duraisamy,
S/o.Duraisamy Raghunathan, No.13043, Prestige Shantiniketan, White Field Road, Opp.ITPL ,White Field,Bangalore North, Mahadevapura,Karnataka -560048
---- Respondent No.1

NOTICE TO 1st Respondent

Please take Notice in the above Motor Accident Claim Petition MACTOP:263/2022 filed by the petitioner and notice is ordered to you and the same is posted before the Hon'ble Motor Accident Claims Tribunal at Tindivanam on 05-10-2023 at 10.00 am. You are hereby informed to appear before the said Honourable court on the said date and time, either in person or through an advocate and to raise your objection if any, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence and the petition will be decided on merits.

Advocate
P.Thiruvengadam, B.A., B.L.,
VANUR.

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

EXPLAINER

Demolition drive: The boundary wall of the Babur Road Masjid-Madrasa compound that was demolished in April in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

What is the tussle between the Central government and the Delhi Waqf Board?

What is the contention about the ownership of 123 properties which include mosques, dargahs and graveyards? Why is the Waqf Board upset with the surveys of the monuments? What did the two-member committee submit in its report on the issue?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has taken over 123 properties belonging to the Delhi Waqf Board. It includes many historic mosques, medieval dargahs and cemeteries. Following a Delhi High Court order, a committee was formed by the government to study the status of these monuments. The two-member committee headed by Justice (retired) S.P. Garg submitted in its report that no representation or objection was received by it from the Delhi Waqf Board. Accordingly, these properties lapsed into the hands of the Central government.

Why has then the Delhi Waqf Board gone to court?

The Delhi Waqf Board disputed the committee's contention, arguing that it had resulted in "widespread panic, fear and resentment" among the Muslim community. Waqf Board Chairman Amanatullah Khan, who is also an Aam Aadmi Party MLA, claimed the report had not been shared with the Waqf Board, and that there was no direction by the High Court to constitute a two-member committee in its order back in 2014. The Waqf Board has approached the Delhi High Court for redressal.

Almost two weeks after the properties 'allegedly' lapsed into the hands of the Centre, the Waqf Board challenged the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' letter which "absolves" the Board from matters pertaining to the said properties in the High Court. "The 123 properties belong to the Delhi Waqf Board. These mosques, dargahs, cemeteries... they are being taken care of by us. These properties are under our care and will remain so. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has written to us saying we have no right over this property... we have challenged this letter, which was sent to us on February 8, in the High Court," Mr. Khan told the media. He also claimed that the Board had gone to the High Court in January this year challenging the formation of a two-member committee for these properties. Even as the petition was pending before the court, the two-member committee's report came out.

Are the properties in use?

Most worshippers at the mosques and dargahs were not aware of the change of ownership of the properties until the Land and Development Office under the Housing Ministry started pasting notices to the effect outside these properties on February 17 this year. The notices, addressed to 'occupants' of the said properties, were for a survey of the place. Significantly, they did not mention the properties as mosques or dargahs, etc, nor did the notices call the addressee as the owner or possessor of the property. Things came out into the public domain when the boundary wall of the Babur Road Masjid-Madrasa compound was demolished in April this year. It was followed by a notice to the Masjid Takia Shah in the vicinity. The compound with a centuries-old a mosque and dargah was claimed to be a railway property.

What is the stand of the Waqf Board?

The Waqf Board which had gone to court in February following the de-listing of 123 properties, and asked for a halt to the surveys being conducted, filed a fresh application after the demolition of the boundary wall of the mosque-madrasa complex at Babur Road. The Delhi High Court, however, allowed the survey to continue. It did direct the authorities to ensure minimal disruption in day-to-day affairs at the properties, including non-disturbance of prayer timings. The court's oral observation about non-disturbance of prayer timings came after the Waqf Board alleged that despite the fact that the matter was subjudice, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had started sending its employees to visit the Waqf properties, along with the police, who were affixing and distributing the notices or letters at the properties, including mosques, during prayers.

What is the Housing Ministry doing?

Last month, a notice for a survey was pasted outside New Delhi's Jama Masjid opposite Parliament House. Against the Waqf Board's wishes, the survey was carried out at the mosque on August 21. A day earlier, a portion of the Mamu-Bhanje dargah was demolished as it allegedly infringed on a public road. The shrine's caretaker, however, claimed the dargah is among the 123 de-notified properties where a court case is going on. A part of the shrine was demolished after a notice was sent out on August 18. The authorities claimed this portion was built on encroached land.

After Mamu-Bhanje dargah, the Pandara Road mosque near Khan Market has also been surveyed. Also surveyed was the Sunehri Bagh Masjid located barely two kilometres from the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

What has the Centre said in court?

Through its counsel, the Centre opposed the Waqf Board's plea against inspection of the properties under question, and claimed that the Delhi Waqf Board is not and cannot be the owner of any of the 123 properties and at best could only be a custodian, that too only if it's a Waqf property. "Merely because certain properties were given on lease to various persons, does not ipso-facto mean that the said properties are converted into Waqf properties," the counsel reasoned in the High Court.

The survey of some of the leading mosques and dargahs continues for now though the graveyards have not been touched yet.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

World Alzheimer's Day, which is observed every September 21, is a global effort to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease. Here is a quiz on neurodegenerative disorders

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Name the two scientists who discovered Alzheimer's disease.

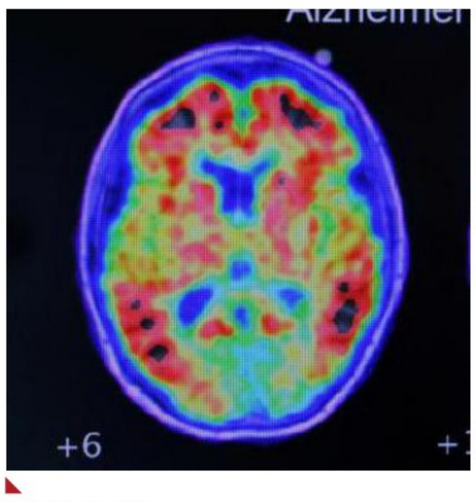
QUESTION 2
Alzheimer's disease has been identified as a protein-misfolding disease. What does the phrase 'protein misfolding disease' mean?

QUESTION 3
This is a chronic degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that affects both the motor system and non-motor systems. Early symptoms are tremors, rigidity, slowness of movement, and difficulty with walking. Identify this disorder. Name the American boxer who was diagnosed with this disease.

QUESTION 4
This is an incurable neurodegenerative disease that is mostly inherited. It is also a basal ganglia disease causing a hyperkinetic movement disorder known as chorea. Identify this disease.

QUESTION 5
One particular hypothesis proposes that these groups of proteins are the primary causative factors of Alzheimer's. These are a group of six highly soluble protein isoforms produced by alternative splicing from the gene MAPT. What are the proteins called?

QUESTION 6
The first three seasons of this TV show featured a running subplot of the titular character's struggle, first to keep her mother's Alzheimer's a secret, and then to cope with her mother's disease as her state worsened. Identify the show.



Visual question:
This is evidence of Alzheimer's disease. These images are from a scan report that is used as a technique to identify Alzheimer's. What is the technique used here?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. *The Hindu* was started to rebut the unfair campaign against the appointment of this Indian judge. **Ans: T. Muthuswami Iyer**
2. The two-word moniker given to the six founders. **Ans: 'Triplicane Six'**
3. *The Hindu* was a weekly which used to come on this day. Its initial run was these many copies. **Ans: Wednesday (later Thursdays); 80 copies**
4. In this year, the ownership of *The Hindu* passed on to Kasturi Ranga Iyengar. **Ans: April 1905**
5. This Indian leader said this of the newspaper — "*The Hindu* always reminds me of an old maiden lady, very prim and proper, who is shocked if a naughty word is used in her presence." **Ans: Jawaharlal Nehru**
6. In 1947, *The Hindu* started this publication led by this person that lasted a score years. **Ans: Sport & Pastime and S.K. Gurunathan, considered the first Sports Editor**
7. In 1984 and 1994, the media group launched these two publications. **Ans: *Frontline* and *Business Line***
Visual: Identify this longest-serving editor of *The Hindu*. **Ans: G. Kasturi**
Early Birds: Jagrati Shukla| K. N. Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms. Chanda Roy, Allahabad, wants to know the meaning of sledging as used in cricket."

"It is Australian cricket slang. It means 'trying to disrupt batsmen's concentration by abusing, teasing them'.

The batsman protested against the sledging he was subjected to.

The word is only about 12 years old."

"Sir, Mr. N. K. Aravamudan, 136, Kodambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'relict.' "

" 'Relict' is 'a group of plants or animals, or a particular organism, that is surviving remnant of otherwise extinct form'. It also means 'a geological or other object which has survived in primitive form'. 'Relict' is generally used as a technical term.

These are the relicts of some ancient structures.

Occasionally it is used to mean 'a widow'.

He married John's relict.

'Relict' in this sense is rather archaic. So don't use it in this sense."

"Sir. Mr. M. Baboo, 52. Madhava Road, Roberstonpet, KGF, wants to know the meaning of 'to throw in the towel'. "

" 'To throw in the towel' or 'to throw in the sponge' means 'to abandon a struggle or contest', 'acknowledge defeat', 'surrender'. This is a metaphor from boxing. In boxing, a manager has the option to end the contest if he feels that his man has no chance of winning. In such a situation, the manager would throw the fighter's sponge or towel into the air to admit the defeat of his contestant. This is done to avoid needless physical violence. A sponge or towel is used to wipe off the boxer's sweat.

He threw up the towel even before all the election results were out.

Incidentally, the 'o' in 'sponge' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'love' and 'ge' is pronounced 'j' as in 'judge'. "

"Sir. what is the difference between 'a' and 'one'?"

" 'A' or 'an' is the unemphatic form of the numeral 'one'. 'One' is used when you want to emphasise the number. 'A' or 'an' emphasises the species or class.

Can an animal speak? No, but a man can.

Can one man do this? No, two will be needed.

I asked for a ticket to Bombay. You have given me two. I wanted only one.

I hope I have made myself clear. Use 'one' when you want to specify the number."

"Sir, I heard someone say, 'Could I have a coffee, please?'. Is it correct?"

" 'Coffee' is not a countable noun but is used as a countable when you mean 'a cup of coffee'. So sometimes it is used as a countable and sometimes as an uncountable depending on the context.

She prepares excellent coffee.

Get us three coffees, please.

What would you have, coffee or tea? Coffee, please."

Published in The Hindu on June 6, 1989

Word of the day

Buck:
to strive with determination; resist; move quickly and violently; jump vertically, with legs stiff and back arched (when used as a verb)

Synonyms: go against, shoot, tear, charge, shoot down, hitch, jerk

Usage: *He is bucking for a promotion.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/buckpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bʌk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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A BG-BGE

From Page One

Ask CWMA to reconsider its order, State tells SC

"Even at the reservoir level, which covers a part of the catchment, the shortfall is 53.42%. If the shortfall is considered up to the inter-State border Biligundulu, where flows are accountable, shortfall and distress would be much more than 53.42%," the Karnataka application said.

Karnataka said it had cumulatively ensured 3,10,404 cusecs as against 2,91,000 cusecs.

"Therefore, Karnataka has ensured 19,404 cusecs more than what the CWMA had ordered," its application underscored.

Karnataka said the CWMA had not considered the fact that distress in the Cauvery basin could not be assessed solely on the basis of inflows into four reservoirs which cover only a small catchment of 12,761 sq. km as against the catchment up to the inter-State border Biligundulu which cover 36,682 sq.km and while basement's catchment up to Lower Coleroon Anicut in Tamil Nadu which covers 81,155 sq km. The application argued that the CWMA did not consider the north-east monsoon rainfall, which entirely benefits Tamil Nadu.

INBRIEF

Global partners to take part in Karnataka's tech exposition

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, Information Technology and Biotechnology, on Wednesday officially invited Global Innovation Alliance Partners from Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Vietnam to attend the State's annual tech exposition, Bengaluru Tech Summit, scheduled between October 29 and November 1 in the city.

The Minister met Philip Green OAM, High Commissioner of Australia to India, Freddy Svane, Ambassador at the Royal Danish Embassy in New Delhi, Kimmo Lähdevirta, Ambassador at Embassy of Finland in New Delhi, Philipp Ackermann, German Ambassador to India and Bhutan, and Nguyen Thanh Hai, Ambassador of Vietnam to India. In addition to the five Global Innovation Alliance Partners, the summit is also expected to see delegations from the U.S, U.K, and other countries.

Three-member committee to probe Kidwai irregularities

The State government on Wednesday set up a three-member committee headed by Arundathi Chandrashekar, Commissioner of Treasuries, to probe allegations of large-scale irregularities in the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology.

Apart from Dr. Chandrashekar, the committee includes Guruswamy, Managing Director of Karnataka State Textiles Cooperative Society and Mahadev, BBMP Additional Commissioner (Finance). The committee has been asked to submit its report within 15 days. Last week, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had ordered that a comprehensive probe will be taken up by a team of senior officials, including IAS officers from the departments of Cooperation and Finance.

Sources said the CMO had received complaints on the lack of transparency in the procurement of medicines and medical equipment by the Kidwai director. *The Hindu* had reported the allegations against Kidwai director V. Lokesh for issuing a pre-dated work order for the development, operation, maintenance, and management of the Positron Emission Tomography and Computed Tomography (PET -CT) equipment.

CM urges State MPs to put aside politics and stand together for Cauvery cause

There is no question of releasing water. We have no water to spare, asserts Siddaramaiah in New Delhi during a meeting with MPs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the all-party MP's meeting on the Cauvery river water sharing issue at New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reiterating that Karnataka will not release Cauvery water, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday urged Members of Parliament from the State to put aside politics and speak together as one voice.

"There is no question of releasing water. We have no water to spare. Put aside party politics and stand together as one with regard to protecting our State, language, water, land and culture," the Chief Minister told Union Ministers and MPs from the State at a meeting in Delhi. "The situation has turned critical, and there is no distress formula in place," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, who were scheduled to meet Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Wednesday, are scheduled to meet him on Thursday morning. "We have been informed that the Wednesday evening meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday," Mr. Shivakumar told presspersons.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the State requires 106 tmcft of water of which 33 tmcft is for drinking, 70 tmcft for crop protection, 3 tmcft for industrial purposes. "At present, we are left with only 53 tmcft of water. We have no water to spare for Tamil Nadu." He pointed out that Karnataka will not get rain after August while Tamil Nadu receives rain after August. "Groundwater table is also high there. So, we are in more trouble."

Mr. Siddaramaiah said while Karnataka had to release 108.4 tmcft of water as per the Supreme Court order, only 39.8 tmcft of water had been released so far. He cited Mekedatu scheme as a solution. "We need it to use our water, store it, generate electricity in our land. Mekedatu is the solution for such a situation in future," he said.

'State interest at stake'

Mr. Shivakumar, who holds Water Resources portfolio, told the MPs, "Politics should take a back seat when the interest of the State is at stake. Our officials, experts and legal team have efficiently presented the situation in Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). Demand and pressure should be exerted in order to get positive help from the Centre."

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We have discussed the issues with our MPs. All of them have pledged their support in our fight. We are facing a distress situation, of which we will apprise the Supreme Court. I hope justice will be given."

HDK hits out

Meanwhile, taking objection to the State's "delay" in approaching the Supreme Court, former Chief Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday held State Government responsible for releasing water when state was facing shortage and in the absence of any distress formula for sharing water.

"The State should have fought for the distress formula by now. What have we done in this regard? The Cauvery Water Management Authority members are overriding the State's interest," he told reporters in Chennapatna. Blaming officials for negligence, he said, "Instead of attending the meetings at Delhi physically with data and documents, they are attending meetings virtually. A team of 15 officials from Tamil Nadu attend the meetings."

HDK asks Election Commission to probe Yathindra's statement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urging the Election Commission to probe the purported statement of Yathindra, former Congress legislator and son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, that cookers and iron boxes were distributed during elections, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that the Congress government had come to power "through such illegal means."

"I had stated repeatedly that the Congress government has come to power by enticing voters in the election. The son of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah himself has laid bare the truth," the former CM said on social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

Mr. Yathindra's is said to have made the statement while speaking to members of the Madiwala (washermen) community recently, referring to the purported distribution in Varuna constituency before the Assembly elections. The short video clip had gone viral on social media. "Forget other constituencies, cooker and iron boxes have been distributed in Chief Minister's constituency Varuna. Other candidates have followed their socialist leader and have spoilt the sanctity of Vidhana Soudha built by Kengal Hanumanthaiah. This was done along with five guarantee coupons that were distributed to entice voters, which was world's biggest election fraud," Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged. The Congress has now plotted to "destroy democratic system" in the country by introducing the "Karnataka model" to other states, including in Telengana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan that are going into elections, he added.

Mr. Kumaraswamy said that the Election Commission should investigate the statement of Mr. Yathindra thoroughly and disqualify all the 135 members elected from Congress and the government should be dismissed. The Centre should also probe election related irregularities, and prevent the "anti-India programmes" that are destroying the Constitution and democracy, he added.

HC seeks Centre's view as X Corp wants review of blocking orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday asked the Union government to respond to a new plea by X Corp (formerly Twitter) for re-examining the blocking orders passed earlier and pass fresh 'reasoned orders' for blocking posts and accounts.

A Division Bench comprising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Vijayakumar A. Patil told the advocate representing the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to get a response from the Ministry on the proposal made on behalf of X Corp for re-examination of blocking orders.

The Bench was hearing an appeal filed by X Corp questioning the single judge's June 30 verdict of upholding blocking orders passed against X Corp for removing objectionable posts and blocking accounts under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The Bench sought the response of the Ministry after the advocate representing X Corp submitted that that the court can remand the issue back to the Union government for reconsideration as "*prima facie* the blocking orders have no reasons" and X Corp would continue to block the accounts and contents till the government passes fresh orders.

Rejecting the contention of X that "no reasons" were given for blocking orders, the single judge had observed that "no reasonable person in the trade would agree with the contention of the petitioner that, reasons for impugned are lacking. The X, in its appeal has questioned this finding of the single judge apart from challenging other findings recorded against it, including order of imposing exemplary cost of ₹50 lakh on it.

'Pitch for three Dy.CMs made to garner support before LS polls'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna on Wednesday said that ensuring victory in more seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is important for the longevity of the Congress government in Karnataka.

"The upcoming Lok Sabha polls are important for the State, country and this government. We (Congress) will have to win more seats in Karnataka. If we win less seats, they (BJP) will come up with slogans asking us to resign for losing the mandate of the people... There is a need for us to win more LS seats," Mr. Rajanna told presspersons here. He added that he had mooted the idea of three Deputy Chief Ministers earlier with this in mind. The Congress has come out with many schemes to win at least 20 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he said.

Reiterating his demand for three more Deputy Chief Ministers in Karnataka, Mr. Rajanna said there was nothing wrong with what he had proposed. Keeping in mind the Congress' interests and increasing the vote base in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he suggested three Dy.CMs. "It is not on anyone's instigation," he clarified.

"The tree more Dy.CMs I have suggested are based on caste or community. I am unable to understand what's wrong with this. I have urged the high command in the interest of the party. If the high command feels it is right, they will implement it, if they feel it is not right they will leave it," the Minister said.

'DKS is not a target'

Noting that his suggestions for three more Dy.CMs are not aimed at bringing down the importance of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the government, as being claimed, the Minister said, "Such claims are far from the truth." "If Dy.CMs are made one each from Veerashaiva, Minority and SC/ST communities, we will get more support. This is what I have suggested. I have not said who should be made Dy.CM, I have also clarified that I am not an aspirant," he said.

On a proposal on appointment of three more Dy.CMs in the State, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the high command would decide on it ultimately, and that he would comply with the decision. Mr Shivakumar on Monday said that Mr. Siddaramaiah must respond to Mr. Rajanna's demand to create three more Dy.CM posts, as it was the CM who appointed him and other Ministers.

Fellowship in memory of G. Rajashekhar

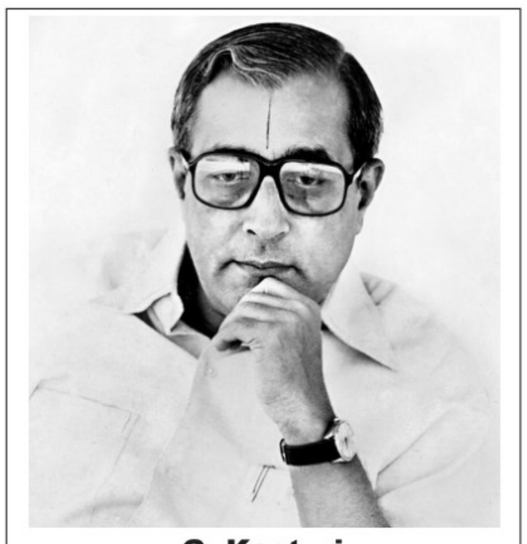
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Fellow activists and friends of the late G. Rajashekhar, Udupi-based scholar and activist, instituted a fellowship in his memory on his birthday, which fell on September 16. The G. Rajashekhar Memorial Fellowship is aimed at helping young writers/researchers/journalists hone their skills in historical research and reportage. The selected candidate in the age group of 23-35 will receive a grant of ₹80,000 over 6 months, said a release.

Applicants are to submit a proposal on their research topic and methodology to grskksv@gmail.com, which will be scrutinised by a panel of academicians, journalists, and writers monitoring and guiding the candidate. Women candidates and individuals from marginalised/minority communities will be given priority. October 16 is the last date to apply.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

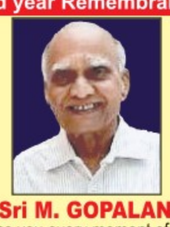


G. Kasturi
17-12-1924 — 21-09-2012

REMEMBRANCE

SRI.T.K.VARADARAJAN, Prathama Acharyapurusha, T.T.D., S/o Late Smt.Ranganayaki & Late Sri T.K.Srinivasa Thathachari, Advocate, Madras, departed this day 2010. Dear Brother, Parents affectionately remembered.

In loving memory of
3rd year Remembrance



Sri M. GOPALAN
We miss you every moment of our life. Your presence continue to surround us. You always live in the hearts and minds of your loving family you left behind.
Mourned by: Wife - Sarojini Gopalan, Daughter - Indira G.Nair, Son - Pradeep G. Nair, G.Son - Abhinav Vishnu (Kuttu)

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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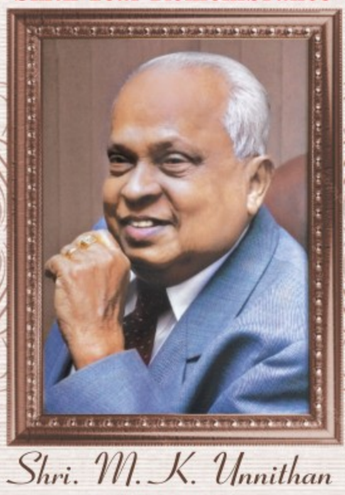

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SANKAR

Exploring yet another option to solve Namma Metro's last-mile connectivity issue

Can the soon-to-be-operationalised Metro Mitra app change the public distrust of many such initiatives in the past that eventually failed to deliver?

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Ubiquitous on Bengaluru's streets, the autorickshaw should have been the most effective last-mile connectivity option. It is a no-brainer, at least on paper. Yet, the lack of an effective price regulatory system has made a mockery of the auto meter, further pushing the city's unsustainable, explosive growth of private vehicles. Can Metro Mitra and other options in the pipeline reverse this decline?

Developed for a mobility partnership with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and expected to be operationalised soon, Metro Mitra app promises to be a game-changer. But can it change the public distrust of many such initiatives in the past that eventually failed to deliver? Exasperated by the inaccessibility and frequent cancellations by autos attached to aggregator platforms, commuters are desperate for a system that actually works.

A file photo of Prepaid Auto Booth on M.G Road. Inter-modal connectivity has been a big challenge at many of the Metro Phase I stations, and the new app is expected to adress the issue.

Prepaid in disarray

Pre-paid auto rickshaw stands at many Metro Stations are in disarray. Despite the inflated rate cards, vehicles are often unavailable and the counters are poorly staffed or closed. Alighting the Metro, commuters end up paying hefty fares after a hard bargain. During peak hours, the waiting time for an Uber or Ola can get frustratingly long.

Metro Mitra is different since it is exclusively for Metro users, and the routes are designed to originate from the Stations. The plan is to extend it to all existing stations across the city. To beckon the long-harassed commuters, the app will strictly follow the government's meter fare model with an additional flat fare charge of ₹10. This will cover the pick-up and technology-related expenses.

Inter-modal connectivity has been a big challenge at many of the Metro Phase I stations. Designated BMTC bus bays are a rarity. The new app is expected to address this issue with designated 'Metro Mitra Zones,' created for auto drivers in close proximity to the Metro stations.

How it works

So, here's how it works: Commuters book the auto ride while buying a Metro ticket from the BMRCL app or through its WhatsApp chatbot feature. Once he / she enters the destination in the app, an estimated fare shows up. Post booking, the commuter receives a one-time password (OTP) with other ride details. The Metro Mitra zone is then assigned to the commuter. The system follows the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) model.

At the heart of the public discontent with the existing ecosystem is driver behavior. But, as Sampath C., General Secretary of the Adarsh Auto Drivers' Union points out, the fault lies also with the driving schools and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs). "After getting his learner's licence, the driver has 30 days to obtain his Driving Licence (DL). During this period, he should be clearly told that the licence is given for public service and he should go to whichever corner of the city he is hired for," he says.

Regulatory gap

Sampath notes that none of the RTOs or schools educate the driver about the rules. "He is not told 'Don't take more than three passengers, don't charge one and half times beyond the stipulated time limits."

"Without a working knowledge of these basic rules, why should he be issued the DL? They could educate him at the time of renewing license, fitness certificate or permit, but they don't."

The Transport Department has a functioning training programme for drivers of heavy vehicles. "At an RTO on the city's outskirts, they get trained for a full day and only after this are they issued a licence. Why can't they train auto drivers on the same lines? The department collects crores of rupees in penalty. They can get all the drivers in one place, give them food, and conduct awareness drives. I feel about 70% of the problem can be solved this way," says Sampath.

Professionalism

This is where Metro Mitra could make a big difference, feels independent mobility consultant Satya Arikutharam, who has been actively involved in developing the new system. "With Metro Mitra, they want to create a new Section 8 company and then run it as a digital cooperative. But they will onboard only drivers who are professionals. Professionals in the sense that the drivers will have to demonstrate professional pride, values, and etiquette so that their customer behavior is proper," he explains.

The beta launch with about 50-60 daily rides has already elicited a positive response from the commuters, notes Satya, "Everybody is surprised to know that they are coming as per the meter rates. Besides, since the Metro Mitra zones are defined by the drivers themselves, they don't cancel a ride if the trip falls within the zone. This way, last-mile connectivity will become more reliable."

Ruckus at beta launch

The Metro Mitra holds promise, but a ruckus at its beta launch in Jayanagar recently, has forced the people behind it to dissociate the app from any union. A section of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU), linked to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), had objected to the union being associated with Metro Mitra. The app platform is to morph into a Section 8 company.

It is learned that the app's functionality will be extended to 25 Metro stations by the end of March 2024. Currently, the beta-launched platform covers parts of R.V. Metro, Jayanagar, Nagasandra, and Hosahalli stations, working under the radar to avoid any conflict.

Measure of success

Eventually, the success of the system will depend on reliability and sustainability. As things stand, the geographical boundary of the app is determined by the drivers themselves. This limit, called zone, is geo-tagged. So, when a commuter scans, he / she gets options only from that zone.

Since the zone is defined by them, the drivers do not refuse a trip. Once data shows the extent of trips within and outside the zone, drivers could take a decision to expand the radius of their zones to get more rides.

This data-driven, driver-determined approach might just be the answer to the problems faced by Bengaluru's harried auto commuters. Add BMTC bus stops and the transport corporation, and we could be in for a true game-changer.

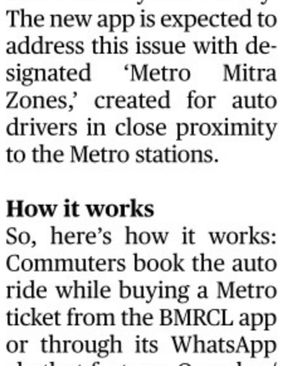
Namma Yatri experience

Introduced less than a year ago, the successful Namma Yatri ecosystem gives some hope to the people behind Metro Mitra. Namma Yatri has already crossed 1.03 crore completed trips and recorded over ₹ 150 crore in driver earnings.

The number of registered users is almost 20 lakh. A driver-centric offering, the app charges no commission unlike the big aggregators that Bengalureans are used to.

Omani child undergoes Robot-Assisted Surgery

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



It was found that right kidney was larger than normal AP

A one-year-old male child from Oman, who had a renal blockage, got a new lease of life following a robot-assisted surgery at a private hospital in the city.

The Right Pelvic Ureteric Junction Obstruction (UPJ) - where the right ureter (the tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder) meets the renal pelvis (a large cavity that collects urine as it is produced) - led to complications posing a risk to his life. The child was admitted to Fortis Hospital on Bannerghatta road with pain, infection and other complications.

On examination, it was revealed that his right kidney was larger than normal and only 24% of the kidney was functional. Additionally, there was a significant build-up of urine in the right kidney as a result of an obstruction at the point where the renal pelvis connects to the ureter. If left untreated UPJ can lead to deterioration of kidney function.

The team of doctors was led by Mohan Keshavamurthy, Senior Director - Urology, Andrology, Transplant, and Robotic Surgery at the hospital performed a robot- assisted laparoscopic pyeloplasty along with ureteral stenting. This is the first reported case in the field of robot-assisted surgeries in a child as young as one-year, the hospital claimed.

"The complexities of operating on a one-year-old are many with the organs being tiny, fragile and there is minimal space to access the abdomen. The robotic surgical instruments used are of the same size as those used for adults, whereas the organs are much smaller in size," said Dr. Keshavamurthy.

Poker and Rummy are games of skill, concludes IIT-Delhi study

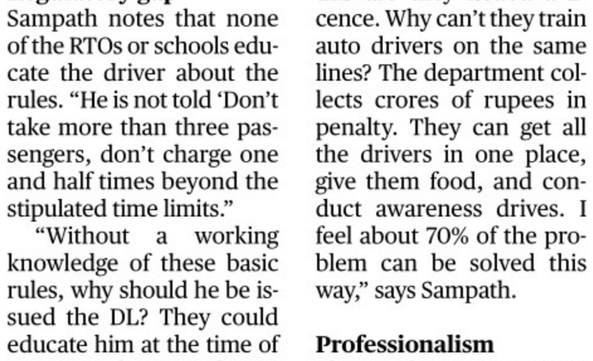
The data for analysis was a set of users who have played a minimum of 30 games

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar faced a backlash for promoting online gaming. a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Delhi concluded that Poker and Rummy are games of skill.

Even as the nation is engaged in a debate over the pros and cons of online gaming, Tapan K. Gandhi, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Cadence Chair Professor of AI and Automation, IIT Delhi, and his team conducted a study titled 'Online Poker and Rummy- Game of Skill or Chance?' They concluded that cognitive and other skills are required for success in Poker and Rummy. The findings of the study were published on arXiv, a curated research-sharing platform.

Prof. Gandhi said that the study debunks the myth of the games being driven by luck, and highlights the skill required in order to be successful.



The findings of the study were published on arXiv, a curated research-sharing platform.

'More you play, better your skills and lesser are variables'

The data for analysis was a set of users who have played a minimum of 30 games and a maximum of 100 games on 2-player, 3-players, and 6-player table. "We found that both in Poker and Rummy, the skill variables improve as the users play more games. This is a precursor that the mean of the winning rate as the user plays more and more games is not zero, which implies that long-term success cannot be considered a random phenomenon," according to the study. This observation lends weight to the argument that the outcomes are not purely products of random chance, but rather are influenced by the players' skills and expertise.

The study found that the performance of a player, as they play a greater number of games, becomes consistent and the variability gets reduced.

"From the studies undertaken, we conclude that there is no difference in online and offline versions of Rummy and Poker from the perspective of requirement of skills, and in online versions of Rummy and Poker, there is preponderance of skills over chance to succeed," the study concluded.

'Improvement in soft skills visible'

Prof. Gandhi said, "Amidst ongoing conversations around online gaming and biased perception terming it as a taboo owing to preconceived notions, the exhaustive study examines the game play of various players to understand if the game, in reality, focuses on skill, or element of luck prevails.

"Throughout our research, we were presented with compelling cases that made it clear that these sports indeed require a level of innate understanding that aided in building the cognitive abilities of the players. Not just limiting the skill aspect to the sport, we also noticed that the player's softer skills, like that of understanding social cues, taking decisions under high pressure situations, memory retention, amongst others, advancing throughout the time they were playing consistently," he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 21, 1973

Mysore Plea to Tamil Nadu and Orissa for Rice

Bangalore, Sept. 20: The Mysore Government has sounded Tamil Nadu and Orissa for supply of rice to the State to tide over the present difficult food situation.

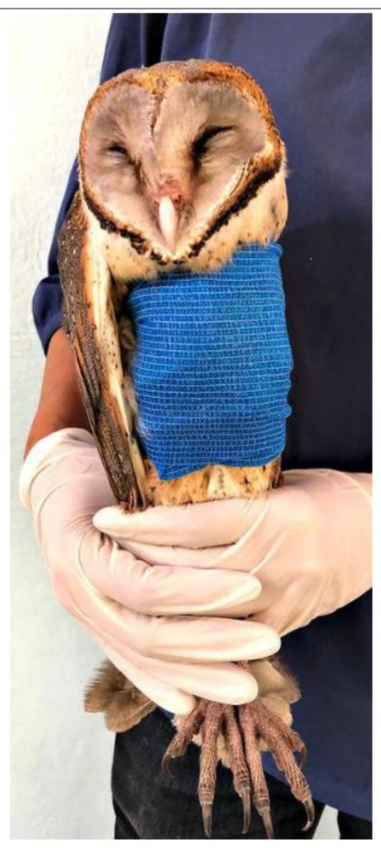
The Mysore Food Minister, Mrs. E.E. Vaz, will be shortly visiting Tamil Nadu to meet the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, to seek about 5,000 tonnes of rice on a "loan basis." Mrs. Vaz told UNI here to-day that she had already conveyed this request to the Tamil Nadu Food Minister, Mr. Mannal Narayanaswami, at Delhi during her recent visit there. She has also asked the Orrisa Governor, whom she met at Delhi, for 2000 tonnes of rice.

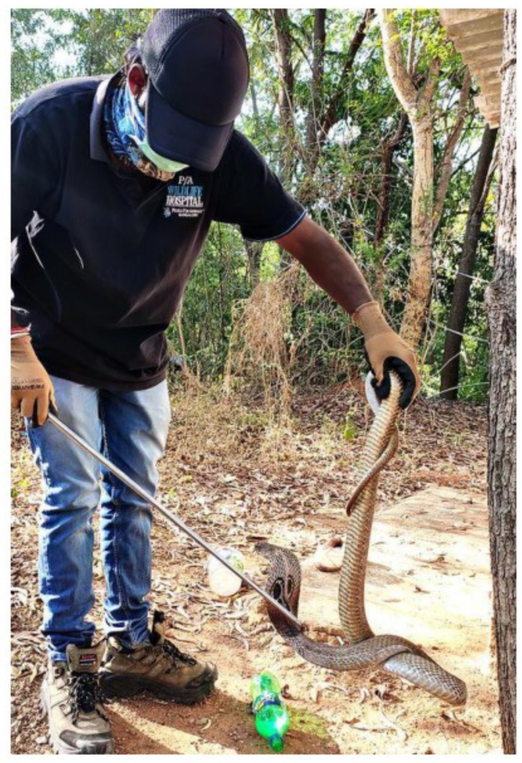
Hoganekal Project Depends on Survey

Bangalore, Sept. 20: The Public Works Minister, Mr. H.M. Channabasappa, told the State Assembly to-day that the investigation of the Hoganekal hydro-electric project did not mean the execution of the project. If the investigation revealed that there would not be adequate water for power generation after meeting the needs of irrigation in the area, such a proposal would not be pursued, he added.

The Minister, who was making a statement on a call attention notice tabled by Mr. Kagodu Thimappa (Soc) said that the Planning Commission had accepted the proposal for advance action on survey and investigation of the hydro-electric project and a provision had been made during the current year for financial assistance to the State for that purpose.

To celebrate their 36,000th rescue, People For Animals has organised a slew of activities in September to raise awareness on urban wildlife





Second lease of life
Some PFA rescues from around the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Walk with the wild side

Ruth Dhanaraj

Most people equate wildlife with creatures in the jungle; somehow cats, dogs and the occasional cow blocking their car do not make the cut for them. Yet, there is a wealth of urban wildlife sharing our cityscape, of which we are woefully ignorant.

People For Animals (PFA) has organised month-long activities to mark their 36,000th rescue and celebrate their stories of "hope and healing". From bat and bird walks and a guided tour of their wildlife hospital to contests, activities and workshops, the events are designed to bring about a greater appreciation for our furred and feathered fellow creatures.

Since pets have almost always had access to healthcare, PFA was established in Bengaluru in the 1990s to provide aid for those animals that did not fall in that category. In the past 27 years, PFA has seen unplanned urbanisation, indiscriminate clearing of land and encroachment of lakes in the city, which has resulted in animals being displaced from their natural habitat.

Despite the challenges faced in this fast-growing, fast-paced city, PFA too, has kept pace in its own way. "We began with very few vehicles to use for emergencies. Today, we have five four-wheelers and six two-wheelers for our rescue operations as well as a wildlife rescue ambulance permanently stationed at Yelahanka to save those precious minutes which are crucial to life saving," says Col Dr Nawaz Shariff, GM and Chief Veterinarian at the PFA Wildlife Hospital.

A former Indian Army vet who retired in 2017 after 30 years of service, Nawaz says there has been an increased in involvement from residents in the city. "People are coming forward to sponsor an ambulance or allow it to be parked in their apartment, helping us establish a node for operations. The ambulance at Yelahanka sees close to four to five rescues a day," he says, adding, "Rescue, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Relief are the four Rs on which PFA operates."

"There has been a dramatic change over the past few years. Parents are making conscious efforts to see their children are involved with what goes on in the environment. Schools and colleges are also taking a proactive approach by arranging school visits and ensuring social work is part of the curriculum for students," adds Nawaz.

"In the initial years, we were helped by the efforts of a lot of volunteers who aided the main people at the helm of affairs. Even today, we have a strong programme for volunteers and interns, who come from all over. We see parents come in with children as young as six and seven to volunteer," says Sneha Prasad Salgame, Manager for Communications at PFA.

A lot of activities at PFA cater to children between the ages of 10 to 18 in order to inculcate a love for animals in them. "We customise activities based on age and hands-on work with animals is limited to and only carried out by experts,' she says, adding, "Once we start interacting with animals – touching or holding them – they get habituated to humans and that is not a good sign as that is how human-wildlife conflict begins."

There is a monkey menace because people make the mistake of feeding them, she says. "Though we don't involve volunteers in the handling of animals, there still is a lot they can do. Accompanying our team on a rescue mission is always thrilling and people are welcome to join us," says Sneha.

PFA has a state-of-the-art wildlife hospital where injured animals such as electrocuted monkeys are treated. "Releasing an animal back into the wild is the most satisfying feeling ever; seeing a bird take wing or a monkey scamper away into the trees after getting better is unforgettable. And once a child has a first-hand experience of interacting with animals, it gets ingrained in them and they will never want to go against the environment," says Nawaz.

"A lot of species seen in the city are found in the wild, but over time, they have adapted to the way we live – birds and squirrels which build nests in building nooks and AC vents are a prime example," says Sneha. "Snakes and owls play an important part in the eco cycle; they are Nature's way of keeping pests in control, eradicating possible outbreaks of disease and using them as agents for pollination and seed dispersal. However, since they induce fear, people try to kill them."

There is a growing need for people to understand what to do when they encounter urban wildlife and PFA is doing their bit to help demystify animal planet for the common man.

For upcoming events by PFA, log on to https://peopleforanimalsbangalore.org/

Did you know?

Bengaluru is home to at least **216** different species of wildlife

The Golden Hour principle is applicable for wildlife too
Civet cats, pangolins, slender loris, foxes and jackals are some animals found in the city

There are over **20 species** of snakes in Bengaluru

'I Killed my mother' is anything but gory

Shilpa Anandraj

Theatre enthusiasts and actors, Meghana AT and Mallika Shah, started a theatre company called *tafreehwale* in Mumbai in 2021. They bring their show, *I Killed my Mother/It Wasn't my Fault* to Bengaluru this weekend. Written and directed by Mallika, the play premiered in March this year in Mumbai and was supported by a grant from the Drama School Mumbai.

I Killed my Mother... is about a 25-year-old girl, who has a turbulent lifestyle. She is assaulted by self-doubt, unemployment, too much social media and her mother. The play is a dialogue between the body and the four voices inside the girl's head.

"This is the story of an ordinary day in the girl's life," says Mallika over the phone from Mumbai. Though the title sounds bizarre, it has nothing to do with murder nor is it a gory tale, but a comedy guaranteed to make you laugh."

Mallika was dabbling with the idea of inter-generational conflict and what it is like to be young in an age of social media and so much stimulation. "I was thinking about what it is to feel disassociated with yourself and how it manifests in the manner in which we handle our lives, careers and relationships."

The fight within A still from the play and (below) director Mallika Shah. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The idea for the play, Mallika says, started on a day when she had a fight with her mother. "I was in my mid 20s when the fight happened. Immediately after, I wrote a poem, which talks about the freedom that comes from killing your darlings or those closest to you, who may knowingly or unknowingly be a major instrument holding you back."

The poem, Mallika says had a strong, angsty voice. "I wanted to think about how this poem and its train of thoughts could be expanded into a dramatised format. That was when I wrote the play, and it is based on real emotions that most of us deal with." The timeline of the play is one day in the life of the girl.

"It starts with when the girl wakes up and ends when she falls asleep."

Mallika, who trained from Drama School Mumbai, has worked with Abhishek Majumdar, Vivek Madan and others in the capacity of a sound operator, assistant director, production, arts management. "Now, I believe I have a holistic idea of what kind of theatre I want to do and what the process of theatre should look like".

I Killed My Mother... is her first play as a playwright and a director and this will be her maiden show in Bengaluru. "When we had our show first in Mumbai we thought only the young would take a liking to it, but were surprised when we saw youngsters walk in with their parents, who also related to the theme of the play. The play, I believe, worked both ways – 25 year-olds connected with the struggles of the protagonist and parents got to see what it means to be trapped in a 20-something mind."

Killed my Mother/It Wasn't my Fault will be staged at Shoonya on September 23 at 6.30pm and 8.30pm. *Tickets on BookMyShow and Insider; September 24 at BIC (Bangalore International Centre) and at Ranga Shankara on September 29, 7.30pm. Tickets on BookMyShow and on www.tafreehwale.com. It is open to anyone aged 16 years and above.*

MISF!T's Connectologues: Relay on stage

Praveen Sudevan

A monologue begins on stage. It stops before completion. Another one begins. It, too, stops midway. And another one starts. Though the start-stop-start nature of the monologues might sound like a cassette stuck in a tape recorder, it is more like the piece-by-piece formation of a jigsaw puzzle. All the monologues are inter-related. A thread runs through all the stories, connecting them.

While a conventional monologue is usually delivered by a single actor depicting a specific story, Connectologues, a sub-genre of monologues, developed by Bengaluru's MISF!T theatre group, is a collection of non-linear monologues, edited to form a much larger story.

Connectologues is a creation of MISF!T's Ratan Thakore Grant with Venkatesan Vaidhyanathan and Vishal Nayer, the directors of *Connectologues V3.0: The Phoenix*, which will be staged at Alliance Française de Bangalore on September 23. It will be MISF!T's third season of Connectologues, after nine years.

Tag, you're it! A verbal baton pass with Connectologues. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"MISF!T as a group, was created to break away from the norms of theatre," says Vishal. "We designed Connectologues with our mentor, Ratan Thakore Grant, wherein we have applied film grammar to theatre."

While non-linear narration is possible in cinema because of the element of editing, how does one pull it off in live theatre?

"That's what is challenging for us as directors," says Venkatesan, Vishal's co-director. "We'll have to coordinate the cues at specific times for each character and put all their narratives into one large, overarching story. It's extremely challenging and exciting for a director. But this format makes it interesting for the viewer."

It is a challenge for the actors, too, to start and stop their performances at specific cues. How do they quickly switch on and off?

"What we've trained ourselves to do is attach specific actions to switches in our mind. These switches have to do with both emotional makeup and even location," says Vishnudathan Devadas, one of the actors. "So, we rely heavily on attaching an action (say pivoting from left to right and then touching my forehead) to the mental switch into being in a different place and time, speaking to someone else and feeling completely different. Over time this becomes seamless, but it is quite challenging at first."

"Staying in character for two whole hours while being frozen for around 70% of that time is very demanding," he adds, "But it also encourages you to concentrate and use your imagination between your scenes. More traditional productions also involve speaking directly to co-actors and being able to react to them. Connectologues require you to speak and listen to imaginary people in your specific story the entire time. The mindset you need to have here is that you're running a marathon."

Connectologues 3.0: The Phoenix (90 minutes) will be staged on September 23 (at 7.30 pm) at Alliance Française de Bangalore. Tickets on bookmyshow.com

CITYBEATS

Midnight munchies

SEPTEMBER 23, 11PM ONWARDS
Brik Oven launches its first edition of Beyond Pizza, which is an after-hours burger special. The menu features burgers in chicken, mushroom, pork, cheese and bacon options, all served with in-house burger buns. There is also the choice of wild cherry and lime soda beverages and a cream cheese ice cream.
On at Brik Oven, Indiranagar

Oceanic delights

ON GOING
Chowman is currently hosting the Oriental Seafood Festival 2023. This month-long festival captures the essence of Eastern culinary traditions with dishes such as the chilli soya octopus, chilli crab whole, Cantonese style chilli squid with soy, jumbo prawn in green chilli and basil sauce.
On at all Chowman outlets, Swiggy and Zomato.

Saying it with flowers

ON TILL SEPTEMBER 30
Gallery G is hosting an exhibition - Floral Symphony: A Celebration of Nature's Canvas. The exhibition features around 50 works by Shan Re that pay homage to the beauty of nature and promote environmental sustainability. Four sculptures by her daughter Romicon Revola from her series on 'Trilokini and Maya' are also be on display.
At Gallery G, Lavelle Road.

HC stays MBBS seat allotment in mop-up round to those admitted in earlier rounds

The High Court of Karnataka made it clear that students who have not paid the fees and completed admission would be eligible for consideration for allotment of seats in the mop-up round

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

Petitioners had questioned the legality of the notification issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority on September 14

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed allotment of seats in the mop-up round for undergraduate medical courses to candidates who have already been admitted to the colleges on allotment of seats in the first and second round of counselling, and those who have paid fees but not reported to the colleges after allotment of seats in the second round, based on UGNEET-2023.

However, the court made it clear that students who have not paid the fees and completed admission would be eligible for consideration for allotment of seats in the mop-up round to fill the remaining vacant UG medical seats.

A Division Bench comprising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Vijayakumar A. Patil passed the interim order on the petitions filed by 18-year-old Mahendra Reddy C.N. of Chickballapur and 20-year-old Hitashree Y.L. of Mysuru.

The petitioners have questioned the legality of the notification issued by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on September 14 in allowing even candidates who have already been allotted seats and completed admissions in the earlier two rounds being permitted to participate in the mop-up round.

Contrary to instructions

It was complained in the petitions that allowing already admitted candidates to participate in the mop-up round is contrary to the admission instructions issued by the KEA at the time of commencement of the admission process. It was also pointed out on behalf of half of the petitioners that the KEA itself, in its earlier circular of September 13 had made it clear that candidates who had already taken admission in any college are not eligible to participate in the mop-up round.

Meanwhile, the KEA told the HC that it had decided to allow candidates, who secured admission in earlier rounds to participate in mop-up round in view of the availability of a large number of vacant seats, 482 seats under the private quota and 37 seats under the government quota.

The KEA, in its September 14 circular had stated that 482 private quota seats and 37 government quota seats had remained vacant owing to non-payment of fees by the candidates to whom the seats were allotted in the second round. Hence, the KEA had said that it was allowing the candidates, who got admitted to the allotted colleges during the earlier two rounds, and also to those who were allotted seats but did not pay fees and reported to the college, to participate in the mop-up round counselling.

What was prohibited

However, the Bench observed that the KEA, by its September 14 notification, had attempted to do exactly what is prohibited by the Rule (vi) of sub-rule 4 of Rule 10 of the Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government Seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules, 2006.

ICMR nod to conduct Truenat test to detect Nipah

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

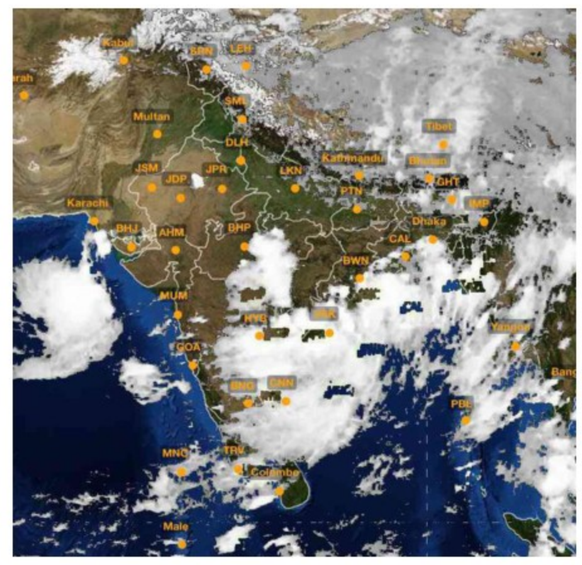
Kerala has been accorded sanction by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to use Truenat test to diagnose Nipah. Hospitals with BSL 2 level labs can perform the test. The standard operating procedure for the same will be prepared, Health Minister Veena George has said.

This means that NiV diagnostics can be performed by more labs in the State. Samples found to be positive for NiV through Truenat can be sent to the labs in Kozhikode or Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospitals or to Institute of Advanced Virology in the capital, she said, while addressing the media here on Wednesday.

The State will focus on evolving a long-term surveillance strategy for Nipah.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7	32.0	25.3	Kozhikode	0.1	32.6	25.0
Ahmedabad	3	33.6	25.5	Kurnool	—	33.6	25.2
Aizawl	6	31.1	21.1	Lucknow	14	34.2	26.5
Allahabad	—	35.1	26.9	Madurai	—	36.8	25.1
Bengaluru	1	30.0	20.8	Mangaluru	2	30.0	23.8
Bhopal	—	—	23.4	Mumbai	11	32.6	25.8
Bhubaneswar	15.2	28.7	24.7	Mysuru	5	30.2	23.2
Chandigarh	—	35.4	25.8	New Delhi	—	37.2	26.6
Chennai	—	36.1	27.3	Patna	—	33.6	26.9
Coimbatore	—	34.1	23.4	Port Blair	9	30.6	24.7
Dehradun	—	33.1	24.0	Puducherry	—	35.5	25.6
Gangtok	26	20.5	16.6	Pune	—	31.2	22.5
Goa	14	30.4	23.0	Raipur	—	33.2	27.2
Guwahati	33	32.4	23.2	Ranchi	3	28.6	23.1
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	15	24.3	16.7
Hyderabad	—	32.7	24.4	Shimla	6	27.0	19.3
Imphal	22	30.4	21.1	Srinagar	—	32.0	16.2
Jaipur	—	34.8	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	32.2	24.9
Kochi	4	30.6	25.4	Tiruchi	23	35.7	24.6
Kohima	17	20.4	17.6	Vijayawada	—	34.0	27.0
Kolkata	7	29.0	26.2	Visakhapatnam	43	29.1	24.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	.22	.46	42	51	
Bengaluru	.8	.28	.71	78	109	
Chennai	.4	.22	.64	23	58	
Delhi	.—	.12	117	103	90	
Hyderabad	.7	.38	.15	54	81	
Kolkata	.13	.13	.48	18	26	
Lucknow	.8	.24	.49	46	69	
Mumbai	.17	110	.22	17	17	
Pune	125	193	110	37	33	
Visakhapatnam	.12	.64	.76	75	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 188 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

MLA ticket cheating case: ₹56 lakh recovered from mutt

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after his arrest, the CCB officials took Halashri Swami into custody and recovered a total of ₹56 lakh which he had kept in his mutt at Hirehadagali in Vijayanagara district on Wednesday.

According to the police, out of the ₹1.5 crore he had taken from Govindababu Pujari, on the promise of getting him a BJP ticket, Swami had returned ₹50 lakh and promised to return the rest later, but had fled. The CCB team with the help of local police recovered a part of the money, while efforts are on to track down the rest, a senior police officer said. Swami, who was tracked down by CCB team near Cuttack on a train, was brought back to city and taken into 10-day police custody for further investigations. The police are now questioning both A1 Chaitra Kundapura and Swami together to corroborate the statement she had given before. Chaitra had told the CCB officials that Swami had "high links" and his arrest will reveal many "big names" in the cheating case. With the arrest of Swami, the CCB have arrested all the accused involved in the cheating case and the police are further investigating to ascertain whether there are more links to the cheating case.

Meanwhile, Samana Manaskaru, Bengaluru, held a meeting and urged the government to intensify the probe and take action against those involved in the cheating. Harish, one of the organisers talking to *The Hindu* said, "We suspect that this case may also end up like Hindutva activist Puneeth Kerehalli case, who is now let off. We demand that the government conduct a proper probe." He said many names of Hindutva leaders have cropped up in the case and the police should probe them. On the other hand, Karnataka Rashtra Samiti Party has filed a complaint with Enforcement Directorate to probe financial transactions and ill-gotten wealth of accused Chitra as well as Govinda Babu Poojary.

Thimmakka's protest

In another development, wheel chair-bound environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka staged a protest in front of city police commissioner officer against dragging her name in the cheating case.

Ms. Thimmakka said that a rumour has been spread by a section of the media that the accused had used her car and other facilities including the office space provided by the government to clinch a deal.

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THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young world THE HINDU

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Registered Office: 123, Richmond Road, Bangalore 560025.

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificates for the undermentioned securities of the company have been lost/misplaced and the holder of the said securities have applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificates.

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office **within 15 days** from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificates without further intimation.

Name of holder	Kind of Securities and face value	No of Securities	Distinctive Nos.
Raveendran MP Bengaluru	Equity Shares Each of Rupees 10/- 20-September-2023	400 shares	*21715111 to 21715210 *21715211 to 21715310 *6680711 to 6680810 *6680811 to 6680910

City Muncipal Council Haveri 581 110

Website :www.havericity.mrc.gov.in Tele phone no.: 08375-232444
E-mail: itstaff_ulb_haveri@yahoo.com Janhita Help Line : 080-23108108
District: Haveri State: Karnatak

REF NO.CMC/CIVIL/CR- /2023-24 Date: 20-09-2023

TENDER NOTECE

The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Haveri invites tender Under I.D.S.M.T Scheme of Rs.**150.00** Lakhs " Construction of Commercial Complex Near Commissioner CMC House. in the e-procurement portal, Interested Contractors can refer and participate in this website: **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for further clarifications visit CMC Office Haveri.

Sd/- Commissioner CMC, Haveri.

DIPR/Haveri/219/2023-24/DeshpandePublicity

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

सं. आरओ केए-32.0011.0/38/2023-कॉन-रो केए दिनांक: 17.09.2023
No. RO KA-32.0011.0/38/2023-CON-RO KA Date: 17.09.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

आंनलाइन निविदाएं जी ई एम पोर्टल के माध्यम से दो बोली प्रणाली के तहत दो वर्ष हेतु नियमित 1) एफएसडी विजयपुरा के एचटीसी, 2) मल्ली मोडल हैंडलिंग और परिवहन संविदा के तहत एस डब्ल्यू सी मैंगलूर/ सी डब्ल्यू सी मन्नागुड्डा /सीडब्ल्यूसी पनामबुर (पुराने मैंगलूर पोर्ट के माध्यम से) और खा.भं.गो. एंड्रांथ तक परिवहन, 3) आरएच/जीएस/एफएसडी मैसूर में एचटीसी, 4) आरएच/जीएस नंजनगुड और एफएसडी मैसूर में एचटीसी, 5) आरएच/जीएस मैसूर से एफएसडी मैसूर में एचटीसी 6) एफएसडी मैसूर पर एचसी और 7) आरएच/जीएस मैसूर में एचसी, के लिए आंनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही है । ऑनलाइन बोलियां **10.10.2023 को अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक** प्रस्तुत की जानी हैं। एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और **"https://gem.gov.in"**. पर उपलब्ध हैं । पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को **https://gem.gov.in** पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for regular 1) HTC at FSD Vijayapura, 2) Multi Modal Handling and Transport Contract from SWC Mangalore / CWC Mannagudda / CWC panambur (via Old Mangalore port) and shipment to FSD Androth, Lakshadweep, 3) HTC at RH/GS/ FSD Mysuru, 4) HTC at RH/GS Nanjangud & FSD Mysuru, 5) HTC at RH/GS Mysuru to FSD Mysuru, 6) HC at RH/GS Mysuru, and **7) HC at FSD Mysuru** for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 10.10.2023**.NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in".** For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (क्षेत्र)
GENERAL MANAGER (Region)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our Clients jointly intent to purchase the residential Site Gramatana House List No. 1785, Old Khatha No. 1685, New Khatha No. 647/660/1785, situated at Papareddypalya Village, Mallathahalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently within BBMP Ward No; 129-Jnanabharathi, Khatha No. 647/660/1785, Mallathahalli, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50, totally in all measuring 1500 square feets which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its Owner **Mrs. H.S. NALINI,** W/o. Mr. H.N.Rajashekaraiah, Resident of 'Kuppuresha Nilaya', Behind Vinayaka Hospital Road, Ashoknagar, TUMKUR - 572 102.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest over the below mentioned Schedule Property may lodge their objections / claims in writing to the undersigned, with documentary proof within **EIGHT (08) days** from the date of this publication. In the event of no claim / objections being received within the stipulated period, our Client will proceed further to transact in purchase the Schedule Property, and thereafter, no claim/s will be entertained and any claims whatsoever in nature shall not bind our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Property Gramatana House List No. 1785, Old Khatha No. 1685, New Khatha No. 647/660/1785, situated at Papareddypalya Village, Mallathahalli Dhakale, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently within BBMP Ward No; 129-Jnanabharathi, Khatha No. 647/660/1785, Mallathahalli, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50, totally in all measuring 1500 square feet, and bounded on:-

East by : Property Site No. 19, {Actually Site No. 18} of Mr. G G Prakash and Mrs. Lakshmi Prakash, **West by :** Property Site No. 16 of Mr. Omkaprapa, **North by :** Bharath Petrol Bunk, **South by :** 30 feet Road.

(N Shiva Kumar)
Advocate / Partner
Shiva & Shiva, Advocates,
No: 11, Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bangalore -560 010.
Ph: **080-23323131**
Place: Bangalore Date: 20/09/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our Client intent to purchase the residential Site No. 65, in the private layout, carved out of residentially converted {Official Memorandum No. ALN(Y)SR/70/11-12, dated 22/07/2011, accorded by Tahsildhar, Bangalore North Taluk}, in New Sy. No. 11/3, Old Sy. No. 11/1, earlier Sy. No. 11, situated at Karivobanahalli (Nelagedaranahalli), Bangalore, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its joint Owners viz. **(1) Mrs. MANJULA. P.N.,** W/o. Mr. Venkatareddy.L, No. 574, 2nd Stage, N T I Layout, Rajivanagar, Vidyaranyapuram Post, Bangalore -560 097 and (2) **Mrs. SANDHYA AARI,** W/o. Mr. Panduranga Shankarappa Gonabala, No. 55/2, 1st 'A' Main Road, Kottigepalya, Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore -560 091.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest over the below mentioned Schedule Property may lodge their objections / claims in writing to the undersigned, with documentary proof within **FIFTEEN (15) days** from the date of this publication. In the event of no claim / objections being received within the stipulated period, our Client will proceed further to transact in purchase the Schedule Property, and thereafter, no claim/s will be entertained and any claims whatsoever in nature shall not bind our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site No. 65, in the private layout, carved out of residentially converted {Official Memorandum No. ALN(Y)SR/70/11-12, dated 22/07/2011, accorded by Tahsildhar, Bangalore North Taluk},** in New Sy. No. 11/3, Old Sy. No. 11/1, earlier Sy. No. 11, situated at Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring **East to West: 50 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally in all measuring 1500 Square feet**, presently within BBMP Ward No. 40-Doddabidarakallu, Property No. 65, Khatha No. 11/1, Karivobanahalli (Nelagedaranahalli), Bangalore, and bounded on:

East by : 30 feet Road, West by : Site No. 79, North by : Site No. 64, South by : Site No. 66.

(N Shiva Kumar)
Advocate / Partner
Shiva & Shiva, Advocates,
No: 11, Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bangalore - 560 010.
Ph: **080-23323131**
Place: Bangalore Date : 20.09.2023

ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
4ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, 16ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಸಂಜಯಂಗರಾಮನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560027.
ಫೋನ್ & ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: **080–22240448** ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **dswourban@gmail.com**

ಸಂ: ಜನಿ.ಸ.ಕ.ಇ/ಬೆಂ(ನ)/ಲೆಕ್ಕ/ಟಿಆರ್–21/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20–09–2023**

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

"2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ನಾಗಪುರದಲ್ಲಿನ ದೀಕ್ಷಾ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವ ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ಸುಗಳ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ದೀಕ್ಷಾ ಭೂಮಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವ ಯಾತ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **www.sw.kar.nic.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–09–2023 ರಿಂದ 10–10–2023** ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ".

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/1365/ಆಡ್ಡರ್ಸ್/2023–24

THE MYSORE PAPER MILLS LIMITED
Paper Town, BHADRAVATI-577 302, KARNATAKA.
CIN: L99999KA1936SGC000173 (03.06.2014)
Phone: +91-8282-270094 / Fax: +91-8282-270937
E-mail: dirforestsmpm@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS FOR SALE/DISPOSAL OF ACACIA HYB. PULP WOOD FULL QUANTITY

e-Tender No. MPML/2023-24/SE0006 : MPM/FFR/DF/RM/2023-24/033 dt.15.09.2023 **Material Description:** Debarked Acacia Hyb **Quantity in MT:** 100000 **Last date & time for Bid submission:** 30.09.2023 at 17.00 Hrs

MPM intends to sell 1,00,000 MT(Approx) of above said standing crop of Pulpwood is being tendered through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Cost of document: As per e-portal norms. Blank tender documents can be downloaded from e-procurement portal; http://mpm.karnataka.gov.in. website. Any changes / amendments to this tender will be published in the e-procurement portal/MPM website only.

Sd/- APCCF & Director (Forests)i/c

DIPR/smg/No.77/09/ksmca/23-24/478

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our Client intent to purchase the residential Site No. 65, in the private layout, carved out of residentially converted {Official Memorandum No. ALN(Y)SR/70/11-12, dated 22/07/2011, accorded by Tahsildhar, Bangalore North Taluk}, in New Sy. No. 11/3, Old Sy. No. 11/1, earlier Sy. No. 11, situated at Karivobanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 50 feet and North to South: 30 feet, totally in all measuring 1500 Square feet, presently within BBMP Ward No. 40-Doddabidarakallu, Property No. 65, Khatha No. 11/1, Karivobanahalli (Nelagedaranahalli), Bangalore, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its joint Owners viz. **(1) Mrs. MANJULA. P.N.,** W/o. Mr. Venkatareddy.L, No. 574, 2nd Stage, N T I Layout, Rajivanagar, Vidyaranyapuram Post, Bangalore -560 097 and (2) **Mrs. SANDHYA AARI,** W/o. Mr. Panduranga Shankarappa Gonabala, No. 55/2, 1st 'A' Main Road, Kottigepalya, Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore -560 091.

Any person having any right, title, claim or interest over the below mentioned Schedule Property may lodge their objections / claims in writing to the undersigned, with documentary proof within **FIFTEEN (15) days** from the date of this publication. In the event of no claim / objections being received within the stipulated period, our Client will proceed further to transact in purchase the Schedule Property, and thereafter, no claim/s will be entertained and any claims whatsoever in nature shall not bind our Client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

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East by : 30 feet Road, West by : Site No. 79, North by : Site No. 64, South by : Site No. 66.

(N Shiva Kumar)
Advocate / Partner
Shiva & Shiva, Advocates,
No: 11, Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, Rajajinagar 2nd Block Bangalore - 560 010.
Ph: **080-23323131**
Place: Bangalore Date : 20.09.2023

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2023-24/2529 DATE: 19/09/2023

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 works under head of account 8443-Deposit contribution (ADHO), amount put to tender is Rs. 204.17 Lakhs.

Calendar of events :1)Pre-bid meeting date: 22-09-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications:25-09-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids:27-09-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 29-09-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids" 6)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-425/KSMCA/2023-24

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/06/2023-24 Date: 19.09.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender is invited through KPPP portal for the following items:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPP portal
Short Term Tender			
1	BMTC/2023-24/IND0019	Procurement of Wall Clocks.	27.09.2023 @14.30Hrs.
Regular Tender			
2	BMTC/2023-24/IND0020	Procurement of Photo Copier Paper.	09.10.2023 @14.30Hrs.

*For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Davanagere Division, Davanagere.
Notice No.: IFT-03/JE-1/2023-24/1464 Date: 16.09.2023

Time Period Extension Notice

Sub.: Regarding Time Period Extension of Tender
Ref: Tender Notice No. of this office: EE/DDD/IFT-03/AE-3/2023-24 Date: 21.08.2023

Due to technical reasons the dates related to 11 works remaining with total 63 works published of Tender invited for total 74 works in Tender Notice No. of this office: IFT-03/2023-24 Date: 21.08.2023 have been postponed as below.

(1) Date fixed for objections regarding the Tender 20.09.2023 up to 4.00 PM (2) Last date for receipt of Tender 26.09.2023 up to 4.00 PM (3) Date of opening the Bids 27.09.2023 up to 4.30 PM There are no other changes in the Tender process. Further details can be obtained from the above office during office hours (Phone: 08192-234951, 231530) or website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/245/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Davanagere

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works **(1)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT/ 566 Date:05.09.2023 for **"Renovation and Modification of relay logic system and electrical system of Stacker/Reclaimer-1 at coal handling plant stage-1 of RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **16.10.2023. (2)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT/ 644 Date: 08.09.2023 for **"Renovation and Modification of relay logic system and electrical system of Stacker/Reclaimer-1 at coal handling plant stage-1 of RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 11,33,920/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **14.10.2023. (3)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT467/Call-2 Date: 13.09.2023 for **"Supply, Erection, commissioning and Testing of 75KW Sump pump motor and LT module at MCC-1, SWGR for Fire Quenching of CHP-E1 at RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 18,148/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **14.10.2023**. **(4)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT459/Call-2 Date:14.09.2023 for **"Up-gration of conveyor No.4 LT motor and draw out type module from 55KW to 75KW at CHP-1 at RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 51,775/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **16.10.2023. (5)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT647 Date: 06.09.2023 for **"Supply, Retrofitting Testing and Commissioning of numerical relays and control circuit of Incomers K&L, Bus Coupler, and two number BUS P.Ts., H.T (6.6 KV) panels at MCC-1 switchgear situated at CHP-1 of RTPS".** EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **12.10.2023. (6)** No.KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT436/Call-2 Date: 12.09.2023 for **"Supply, erection & commissioning of 6.6KV, 3CX70sqmm copper flexible cable of PCRD, Power JB and reeling, Unreeling of old cable at stacker-Reclaimer-3 of CHP-1 at RTPS".** EMD: **Rs.93,857/-** Last date for receipt of tender: **13.10.2023** Category: **Works.** Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer, (CHP)E1, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584 170, Raichur District, Karnataka. Mob:9449596576**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the following works

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1280/2023-24 Date: 15.09.2023	Rs.4,76,324/- Rs. 12,000/-	05.10.2023 upto 03:00 pm	07.10.2023 after 12:00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore- 560 009.

2	DC & BM	BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/1049/2023-24 Date: 15.09.2023	Rs.20,51,836/- Rs. 41,036/-	29.09.2023 upto 04:00 pm	30.09.2023 after 05:00 pm
3		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/1053/2023-24 Date: 15.09.2023	Rs.14,84,727/- Rs. 37,132/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DC & BM)

The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/1370/2023-24

Legislating change

The Women's Reservation Bill must be implemented without delay

The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha almost three decades after it was first tabled in Parliament is a welcome move that can finally shatter a political glass ceiling. With women Members of Parliament comprising only about 15% of the strength of the Lok Sabha, the gender inequality in political representation is stark and disturbing. The 128th Constitution Amendment Bill, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, seeks to amend this by reserving a third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and legislative Assemblies for women. It has a 15-year sunset clause for the quota, that can be extended. Considering the fraught history of the struggle for women's reservation, and several false starts despite the Rajya Sabha passing it in 2010, it is laudatory that the first Bill to be introduced in the new Sansad Bhavan has been passed in the Lok Sabha. But its implementation will be delayed as it has been tied to two factors, delimitation and the Census, and therein lies the rub. It is unfortunate that implementation is being linked to delimitation, for the principle of having a third of seats reserved for women has nothing to do with the territorial limits of constituencies or the number of Assembly or Lok Sabha constituencies in each State.

Women will thus not have access to 33% reservation in the 2024 general election. The Bill also mandates that as nearly as one-third of the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be set aside for women. The Opposition is demanding an internal quota for women of Other Backward Classes, but this should not be used as a ruse to delay implementation. In the meantime, proposals should be fine tuned to ensure that when it becomes an Act, it is not mere tokenism for women's political representation. It is a fact that local bodies are better represented, with the share of women in panchayati raj institutions well above 50% in several States. Lessons must be imbibed on how women at the grassroots level have broken all sorts of barriers, from patriarchal mindsets at home to not being taken seriously in their official duties, and made a difference. Women struggle on so many other counts: they have uneven access to health, nutrition and education, there is a lack of safe places, women are also falling out of the workforce – among the G-20 countries, India's female labour force participation is the lowest at 24%. India, which gave women voting rights at the very outset, should not falter when it comes to ensuring better political representation for women. For growth, and instituting change in key areas, women need to have their say.

Keep calm

Enormity of climate change is no excuse to resort to risky mitigation strategies

India had its rain-wise driest August in a century this year. While scientists are yet to link this anomaly with the chaotic effects of climate change, it underscores the constant threat of disrupted weather, the resulting consequences for the economy, and the importance of climate mitigation. One of the more desperate, and dangerous, ideas to have emerged from this impetus is solar radiation management (SRM): to block some of the incoming solar radiation to cool the earth's surface. SRM's dangers emerge from the fact that it interferes with natural mechanisms with unavoidable planet-wide effects. For example, if an SRM experiment by one country leads to more rain over the Horn of Africa than expected, it could trigger a locust swarm that eventually destroys crops in Pakistan and India. There is currently no mechanism that holds a geoengineering government accountable to consequences beyond its borders nor through which affected countries can appeal for restitution. There has also been little research on understanding how the world's myriad weather systems affect each other and their relative sensitivities to interventions such as SRM.

This is why the report of the Climate Overshoot Commission, released last week, calls for more research to close crucial scientific and governance gaps before any deliberations on the implementation of SRM-like technologies. The commission was constituted by geoengineering researchers to assess ways to accelerate emission cuts. But while the report is careful to acknowledge that the scientific community does not understand SRM enough to attempt a deployment, even in experimental fashion, it also argues for retaining SRM in the mix of potential climate mitigation solutions. This is buttressed by appeals to lack of time as the earth's surface is poised to warm past the 1.5°C threshold enshrined in the Paris Agreement in the next decade. This is a precarious suggestion because even less controversial, but nonetheless problematic, mitigation technologies such as carbon capture take resources, focus, and political will away from the most effective strategy – cutting emissions – and increase emissions limits. SRM will only amplify this dilution. The commission also errs by claiming to act for the interests of developing countries at a time when corporate and political actors have hijacked their 'room to develop' to pursue economic growth at the expense of climate justice. The enormity of climate change requires quick and decisive action, but when better solutions have not been implemented as well as they can be, and while there is still time to do so, it is disingenuous to contend that more high-risk solutions should remain on the table.

Taking a giant leap for a new ethics in outer space

Gopalkrishna Gandhi

is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor

The itch to get there first and fast is human. Being competitive is part of the human's survival instincts.

The urge to plant one's flag there before the other flag-bearer does is human too. It is part of the human's political instincts.

Some 11 decades ago, in 1910-12, both itch and urge were quivering in the northern hemisphere. Robert Scott, a 43-year-old British naval officer, was preparing a daring expedition to the South Pole. Around the same time, a Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, about four years younger, was planning a bold ice-drift to the North Pole. On learning of dubious but loud claims by two Americans Frederick Cook and Robert Peary, Amundsen lost interest in that destination; it had been reached. But the South Pole beckoned. While others had fringed that continent of ice, no human foot had stood on the southern-most point of the earth.

Setting foot on the South Pole

Scott and Amundsen knew of each other's target and goal. But observing due courtesies alright, they raced to it. Scott and his men with dogs and horses, Amundsen with his dogs and sledges. Amundsen and his five companions, with 16 surviving dogs, got there on December 14, 1911, 34 days before Scott and his team of five did. Planting the Norwegian flag there, Amundsen felt fulfilled, as he should have. He named their South Pole camp Polheim, meaning Pole-home, in Norsk. And he renamed the Antarctic Plateau as King Haakon VII's Plateau, after his monarch. Scott and his team were to perish on the pole, having been caught in foul weather.

On exploration's success scrolls, Amundsen is placed on top; in legend and lore, Scott has for all time outpaced his Norwegian rival. Any race has its victories; some have ironies, besides.

In 1939, Norway laid claim to a vast area of Antarctica which it called Dronning Maud Land, or Queen Maud Land, after its reigning Queen, wife of King Haakon. This area covers about a sixth of the entire continent. There followed another Norwegian claim to Peter I Island, which is about 450km off the western side of the Antarctic peninsula.

Britain had been outdone by Norway on the south Pole. But she was not going to be out of the race for territorial claims over Antarctica. Nor others. And now, apart from Norway the first South Pole 'arrivee' and claimant, Britain the second South Pole 'arrivee' and claimant, there are five others who have sharply defined areas on Antarctica which they regard are 'theirs' – Australia, Argentina, Chile, France and New Zealand. So Antarctica has seven flags flying on their own ' Antarctic territories'. How are these seven tracts of Antarctic ice over which flags of different stripes fly, then, different from colonies of the imperial era? They are different. There are no subject people there, no 'native' residents, who are being denied freedom, no resources are being drained out from there to the 'mother country'. But then why were the seven on that inhospitable continent at all?

India must set the pace for the world's agenda on the moon

Regulation and Antarctica's well-being

With the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1958 seeing many players becoming active in Antarctica, and fears of Cold War rivalry taking unexpected turns, United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower convened in 1959 an Antarctic Conference of the 12 countries active in Antarctica during the IGY, to negotiate a treaty. When Argentina proposed that atomic explosions be banned in toto on Antarctica, the U.S. objected, saying only those tests that were carried out without prior notice and consultation should be banned. The USSR and Chile supported the Argentine proposal, leading the U.S. to agree and take the negotiations forward

In the present times when satellites can pick up any activity that is suspicious, none of them can do anything questionable there. They will be found out. But even before the world developed its sky-eyes, the early Antarcticans had to share their space with others if only to justify their own. Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States – 12 countries – had established over 55 Antarctic research stations for the IGY and they had to make the Treaty accord full acceptance to two basics: freedom of scientific research in Antarctica and the peaceful use of the continent. An indirect consensus emerged for demilitarisation as the treaty prohibited nuclear testing, military operations, economic exploitation, and further territorial claims in Antarctica. Today there are 54 parties to the Treaty, with 29 having consultative status, India with its own station on Queen Maud's Land being one of those 29, that have 'demonstrated their interest in Antarctica by carrying out substantial scientific activity there'. Close monitoring systems are in position to regulate the activities of the countries with a presence on Antarctica in order to maintain its ecological integrity. But the fact that there are around 66 scientific stations in Antarctica, 37 being occupied year round, the remainder closing down for winter and some 4,000 people through the summer months and about 1,000 over winter each year living on it, in my opinion, compromises its well-being. Is the work being done for humanity's good from there sufficient ground for the present and future footprint of humanity on its climatically challenged surface?

But this article is not about the earth's South Pole alone.

The earth's seas and ice are different from the sky and its spheres but we know that there has long been an Antarctic-type race in outer space between the powers which have perfected, with great toil and at great expense, to penetrate it and go higher and higher, faster and faster, than their several peers. And the world has been all too aware of the need, dire and pressing, to prevent an arms race in outer space.

An agreement that is about restraint

Even as the earth's South Pole drew Amundsen and Scott to it, the moon pulled Russia's Luna-25 lander and India' s Chandrayaan-3 to it. The Indian vehicle reached its destination, but the Russian was not so fortunate. And just as the world's engagement with Antarctica led to a treaty, so does the Moon Agreement adopted by the General Assembly in 1979 in resolution 34/68 (elaborating on many of the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty) provide that space-probing humanity's dealings with the moon should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes; that its environment should not be disrupted; that the United Nations should be informed of the location and purpose of any station established on it. The agreement states that the moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind and that 'an international regime should be established to govern the exploitation of such resources' when such exploitation is about to become feasible. The Moon Agreement is far-sighted. Something of the world's experience of Antarctica and the working of the Antarctic Treaty informs it. The Moon Agreement is a self-regulating covenant of restraint. It anticipates human appetites for turf, for control, for the urge to get there first , flag and all, and dig in.

Pride and exhilaration over the Chandrayaan-3 achievement, entirely natural, must now be followed by a mature policy on the future of India's earth-borne plans on the moon. To put it differently, as an earth-pioneer on the moon, India must, by precept and practice, set the pace for the earth's agenda on the moon and of the moon's future as a partner with the earth. As a partner, not as property. As a collaborator in science, not a colony in subjugation. The Moon Agreement must be taken to its next logical stage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement – "The success of Chandrayaan 3 is not just India's alone but it belongs to all of humanity" – was wise and responsible. Following up on that, he can now do the world's space missions great service. He can do so now by taking the initiative to craft a declaration of the fundamental rights of outer space. And thereby inaugurate a new ethics for human activity in outer space, including, very pointedly, the earth's responsibilities towards outer space debris. This new ethic must make the non-militarisation of outer space a non-negotiable covenant. The Outer Space Treaty and Moon Agreement now need aligning not just with the latest advances in space missions but with a moral compass to the stars.

India cannot afford to be among those who may want to scramble for outer space hegemonies over what is not just the common heritage of humankind but that of a larger cosmos.

Vietnam, key piece of America's Indo-Pacific puzzle

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President for Studies at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

Vivek Mishra

is Fellow, Americas at the Observer Research Foundation

In international relations, strategic turnarounds are not uncommon, and are in fact embedded in the very tapestry of anarchical structural realities. Yet, even by those standards, the immediacy and scale of the volte-face in relations between the United States and Vietnam since the Cold War has been remarkable. On September 10, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Nguyen Phu Trong, and the U.S. President, Joe Biden, met in Vietnam during Mr. Biden's visit, marking a new phase in the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The standout from this meeting was the elevation of U.S.-Vietnam relations to a U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership from a U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership forged in 2013 between Vietnam President Truong Tan Sang and U.S. President Barack Obama.

A complex foreign policy legacy

Given the complex history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam during the Cold War, this elevation marks a significant step up. Vietnam's strategic restraint notwithstanding, motivations for an upgrade in bilateral relationship have existed on either side, at least since 2013, if not before. Vietnam's reservations about entering into a strategic partnership with the U.S. have both contemporary and historical relevance. The geopolitics involving China's growing belligerence in the Pacific theatre, felt most palpably in the waters surrounding Vietnam and the broader South China Sea, has proven to be a first order deterrent for Vietnam's great power engagements. On the other hand, the historical legacy of Vietnam's contested relations with the U.S. during the Vietnam War, an axile relationship with the communist states China and the Soviet Union, culminating in the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with Soviet Union in 1978, had together imparted a direction diametrically opposite to U.S. interests. This complex foreign policy legacy is the reason why hitherto Vietnam has entered into a 'comprehensive strategic partnership' with only four nations: China, Russia, India and South Korea.

The Biden administration has shown an unusual nimbleness in its strategic embrace of Vietnam; there has been a rapid expansion of ties in various fields

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords signed in 1973 to end the Vietnam War. Much water has flown under the bridge, in that Vietnam's relations with the U.S. have come a long way. Mr. Biden's Indo-Pacific policy now counts Vietnam as among the U.S.'s 'leading regional partners' in the region. Vietnam is the 10th largest goods trading partner of the U.S. In 2020, the total value of trade in goods and services between the U.S. and Vietnam amounted to approximately $92.2 billion and exceeded $138 billion in 2022. In May 2022, the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) was launched by the U.S., with Vietnam as a founding member along with 13 other countries to revive Washington's economic dynamism in the Asia-Pacific.

Bolstering ties

The Biden administration has depicted an unusual nimbleness in its strategic embrace of Vietnam. The visits by U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Vice President Kamala Harris to Vietnam in 2021, the meeting between Secretary Austin and Vietnamese Minister of National Defence of Vietnam General Phan Van Giang in Singapore in June 2022, and visits by U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen this year have culminated in Mr. Biden's visit and augmenting of the bilateral relationship.

The U.S.-Vietnam relationship is now rapidly expanding its bilateral spectrum with an emphasis on enhancing political trust, strengthening science, technology, health and digital innovation cooperation, training of high-quality workforce, addressing climate change, and establishing a strong defence relationship in the backdrop of China's increasing assertiveness. Addressing legacy issues underlines these cooperative efforts.

An assertive China

The war in Europe has thrown new challenges for Vietnam as its weapons import from Russia – its largest defence supplier – has been hit by West-led sanctions. These limitations in the face of Vietnam's resolve to modernise its military, coupled with an ever-growing assertiveness from China, is also gradually nudging Vietnam in a new direction. China's dramatic steps in 2014 to place oil rigs in Vietnam's Exclusive Economic Zone and subsequent assertive posturing have tested its avowed policy to stay clear of great power politics in the region. Undoubtedly, Washington senses an opportunity here and bolstering the defence and security relationship with Vietnam is a key piece of America's grand strategy in the Indo-Pacific.

An important component of Mr. Biden's visit was to start the process of friend-shoring supply chains in the semiconductor industry to Vietnam, even as it seeks to boost Hanoi's chip manufacturing capabilities. As the two countries seek an expanded economic partnership by increasing investments in critical technologies, chips and Artificial Intelligence, there is space for linking such partnerships across the broader realms of the Indo-Pacific with like-minded partners. India's initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) partnership with the U.S. along with the Quad's Principles of critical and emerging technology could provide an overarching framework in the Indo-Pacific for a standardisation of technology in its design, development and use. A supply chain arch which extends from Vietnam to Europe via West Asia, and anchored by India with the newly-launched India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor during the recent G-20 meet in India could symbolise 'comprehensive strategic partnership' in an apt way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India-Canada ties

To avoid further worsening of diplomatic ties, which will have far-reaching consequences, India and Canada should have a joint fact-finding venture that holds an inquiry into the matter.

J. Radhakrishna Kurup,
Ettumanoor, Kottayam, Kerala

Ignoring credible evidence and raising accusations and counter-accusations will not serve the interests of either India or Canada (Page 1, September 20).

It would be better for Canada to submit all evidence it has, which made it arrive at the conclusion about the killing, in the public domain. This move by Canada is likely to make India state clearly how and why it is refuting the evidence. With all possible information available, the people of both democracies can draw their own conclusions.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Better late than never

The unanimous passing of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha may be historic, but it appears to be a ploy by the ruling party to reap political benefits. The fact that one has to wait till after the Census and delimitation exercise is a dampener. But still, one can find solace in that it is better late than never.

T.N. Venugopalan,
Kochi

***The Hindu* at 145**

September 20, 1878 is etched in our memory as the birthday of *The Hindu*. In today's world of cut-throat competition, *The Hindu* is built to last.

T.S. Karthik,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Three years of the Abraham Accords

This week marks an important milestone for West Asia and North Africa: three years since the signing of the Abraham Accords between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, under the auspices of the U.S. government. Three months later, in December 2020, Morocco joined the process, signing a normalisation agreement with Israel.

The catalyst that enabled these historic accords was the decision by the parties to promote a stable future for West Asia.

The agreements have ushered in a new era of normalisation and peace that not only connects governments but also brings people together, despite the differences in their language, religious beliefs, cultures and more. The Abraham Accords have also opened up exciting opportunities for India and its thriving business community, which maintains strong relations and active engagement with our nations.

So far, the Abraham Accords have offered a mere glimpse into the full potential of regional cooperation. Even so, the scope of trade between Israel and other West Asian countries increased 74% between 2021 and 2022. Another example is tourism, mostly non-existent in the past, which has skyrocketed. In 2021, visits from Israel to the UAE increased by 172%. Meanwhile, the number of Israelis flying to Bahrain since the establishment of direct flights has increased exponentially.

Naor Gilon

is Israel's Ambassador to India

Benefits for Indians

The enhanced regional connectivity has also brought significant benefits to the people of India. The vibrant Indian diaspora in the Gulf now has the convenience of direct flights between the UAE and Israel, as well as between Israel and Bahrain. Indian students are enjoying increased ease of travel, gaining improved access to our universities and the opportunity to explore international study programmes.

The Accords have also had a significant influence on reinforcing Israel's relations with neighbouring countries. For example, the Prosperity Green & Blue agreement between Israel, the UAE, and Jordan determined that a solar field to supply 600 megawatts of electricity to Israel would be established in Jordan, while in return, a desalination plant in Israel would deliver 200 million cubic meters of water to Jordan.

Furthermore, the Accords have laid the foundation for expanded regional and multinational cooperation, and this has resulted in a flow of economic opportunities reaching India. Notably, we have witnessed substantial commercial collaborations between companies from the UAE, Israel, Bahrain, and the U.S., partnering with the Indian private sector.

A concrete illustration of this high-level economic cooperation between our governments is the establishment of the I2U2 Group, formed by Israel, India, the UAE, and the U.S. The Abraham Accords made the I2U2 Group possible, and its primary focus will be on joint investments in critical areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health, and food security.

The agreement between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE has improved not just regional ties but has also brought better opportunities for Indians

Programmes for youth

In a region where 65% of the population is under 30 years of age, providing the younger generation with opportunities is a key factor in preventing instability. To that end, youth delegations have been initiated, encouraging bonds between tomorrow's leaders. Delegations in which young influencers experience each other's cultures and visit important religious and historic sites while focusing on community building are effective tools for strengthening ties.

The Abraham Accords encourage collaboration and education. In the summer of 2022, Ben-Gurion University welcomed students from Morocco. Additionally, a number of Emirati students have enrolled in Israeli universities. Bahrain has also embraced the prospects for shared educational activities and signed a number of agreements with Israel to advance student and professor exchanges.

Embracing cultures

In a notable example of how these initiatives can foster mutual understanding, after Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem, the UAE incorporated Holocaust education into its school curriculum as a mandatory subject, attestation to the ability of the Abraham Accords to foster coexistence and religious tolerance.

The Abraham Accords have shown unity's power to inspire. They offer a window into the potential future of the region and demonstrate that when both the leaders and ordinary citizens prioritise peace and cooperation, a far better future for West Asia is possible.

Israel hopes that many more countries will join this endeavour, creating a brighter tomorrow for the sake of all our children.

India holds a significant position among our partners, and the scope of our collaboration underscores our shared interests, including championing a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding trade, addressing climate change, and countering threats to international security.

Through the concerted efforts of our countries' public and private sectors, we are poised to deliver promising outcomes for the entire world. Our nations share a special bond with India and its people, and we remain committed to realising the full potential of the Accords as partners in peace and prosperity.

Spectre of the solar scam in Kerala

The scandal has plagued the Congress and kept resurfacing for over 10 years

STATE OF PLAY

G. Anand
anand.g@thehindu.co.in

A scandal that rocked Kerala politics a decade before has returned to dominate discussions on mainstream and social media.

The so-called solar scam that surfaced in 2013 accrued all the classic ingredients of a high-voltage sex-for-political patronage scandal over the past 10 years.

It possessed elements of high political intrigue, tales of clandestine conspiracies and whispers of powerful politicians pursuing personal vendettas.

The scandal centred around a businesswoman's accusation that a galaxy of Congress leaders, including the then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, had sought sexual favours from her on the "vain promise" of extending official backing for her nascent solar energy venture.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)), then in the opposition, beat the solar scam drums to gain a clear propaganda advantage in the 2016 Assembly elections.

It forced the UDF government into instituting a judicial commission to probe the scam.

The findings of the Commission proved double-edged for the UDF. It concluded that there was merit in the woman's accusations and recommended a criminal enquiry.

In 2017, the LDF government accepted the Commission's recommendations, tabled the report in the Assembly and ordered a Crime Branch enquiry.

The probe meandered unhurriedly until the LDF government dropped a second political bombshell in the run-up to the State Assembly elections in 2021. It ordered a CBI probe into the woman's accusations.

Absolved of crimes

After two years of intrusive inspections, including a high-profile "evidence collection" at the Cliff House once occupied by Chandy and seemingly perennial bad press for the Congress, the CBI absolved the suspects of wrongdoing in 2023.

Yet, the solar scam has refused to fade away. It has also displayed an uncanny penchant for surfacing seemingly impromptu in the public domain from time to time.

Last week, trouble began when an online news portal reported the existence of a purported CBI court filing that pointed to a top-level LDF conspiracy to implicate Chandy and other Congress leaders in the solar scam-linked sexual misconduct case.

The supposed legal record is yet to emerge in the public domain. Nevertheless, television news channels and Congress leaders echoed the CBI's "conclusion" as a given.

The scandal's unflattering and belated political backwash caught the government unawares. The timing of the order also appeared suspect. Moreover, it seemed the government had a political axe to grind against Chandy.

The purported CBI finding also had a contradictory outcome for Congress. Allegations flew fast and thick that the case owed its provenance to the wrangling among Congress Ministers for the Chief Minister's post in the previous UDF government.

The Congress denied the accusation. However, the imputations provided ammunition for the CPI(M) to posit that fratricidal bloodletting in Congress spawned the solar case.

It pointed to the 1994 ISRO spy case that saw the exit of the then Chief Minister K. Karunakaran.

The Congress has cast Mr. Vijayan at the centre of the plot to disparage Chandy in his twilight years.

The government's assurance to conduct an investigation if the Congress furnished the "incriminating CBI report" cut no ice with the opposition.

Appealing to layman

Given the outpouring of public grief following Chandy's death and the decisive win of his son, Chandy Oommen, in the Puthuppally Assembly byelection, the Congress sensed the demand for a probe to net the conspirators would appeal to the ordinary person's sense of justice.

Moreover, the party felt the narrative that Chandy was a martyr to a strong CPI(M) conspiracy in his autumn years would transcend politics and resonate among voters in future elections.

Given the ambiguity surrounding the provenance of the solar case and its echoes in State politics, the government appears to have a duty to get to the bottom of the episode and set the record straight by instituting a convincingly independent probe in the larger public interest.

Women's share in Assemblies less than 10% in 20 States

Share of women parliamentarians has never exceeded 15% in the past general elections

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

The BJP government tabled the Women's Reservation Bill as the first order of business in the new Parliament House on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the Bill a historic decision and said that he had been chosen by god for the noble task of giving rights to women. On Wednesday, the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha after a day of deliberations.

First introduced in 1996 in the Lok Sabha by the H.D. Deve Gowda-led United Front government, the Bill did not get the approval of the House. It was reintroduced many times subsequently but failed to pass muster and lapsed with the dissolution of Houses.

As per the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, a third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is proposed to be reserved for women. However, the amendment to the Constitution comes with a caveat that it can be implemented only after a delimitation exercise – scheduled to be held in 2026 – has been completed, using data from the latest Census conducted after the passage of the Bill. This effectively pushes the earliest year of implementation to the 2029 general election.

After implementation, there should be at least 181 (approximately 33.3% of seats) women members in the Lower House. At present there are 82 women in the Lok Sabha which amounts to 15% of its members (**Chart 1**). The share of women parliamentarians has never exceeded the 15% mark in over 70 years of India's electoral history. When considered as a share of total candidates who participated in the 2019 general election, their share is even lower at 9%. The share of women candidates has never exceeded the 9% mark ever. **Chart 1** shows the share of women members in the Lok Sabha over time.

In the case of the sitting State Legislative Assemblies, the share of women MLAs is far lower with just one State – Tripura– touching the 15% mark (**Chart 2**). Women members formed less than 10% of Legislative Assemblies in 20 States and Union Territories. This includes States such as Gujarat (8.2%), Maharashtra (8.3%), Andhra Pradesh (8%), Kerala (7.9%), Tamil Nadu (5.1%), Telangana (5%) and Karnataka (4.5%).

In the 2023 election, Nagaland got its first two women MLAs. Mizoram too has not had a women MLA in the past seven Assemblies. **Chart 2** shows the share of women in State Legislative Assemblies over a period of time.

When seen across party lines, women form just 13.5% of sitting members of the largest party in the Lower House, the Bharatiya Janata Party. The highest share of women MPs in the Lok Sabha are from the Biju Janata Dal (41.7%) followed by the Trinamool Congress (40.9%). Similarly, a party-wise analysis of the State Legislative Assemblies shows that the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal had the highest share of women MLAs (15.3%) followed by the Congress in Chhattisgarh (14.7%). The Congress in Karnataka (3%), the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana (3.4%), and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu (4.5%) had among the lowest shares.

Chart 3 shows the party-wise share of women legislators.

The share of women in India's Parliament is also among the lowest in the world. When compared with BRICS nations, including the new members, India has the second-lowest share (15%), just above Iran (6%). Over time, South Africa and Ethiopia have made giant strides in women representation in their national legislatures. **Chart 4** shows the share of women in Parliaments of BRICS and other countries.

Miles to go

The data for the charts were sourced from Trivedi Centre for Political Data's Indian elections dataset, the Election Commission of India and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

First steps: Women visitors arrive at the Parliament House on the day of debate on Women's Reservation Bill | PTI

Chart 1 | The share of women members in the Lok Sabha (%)

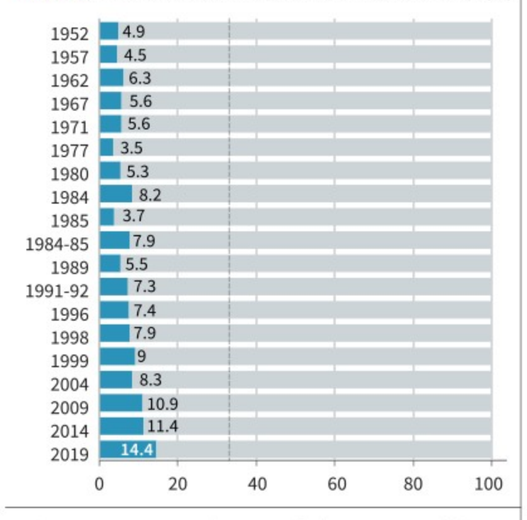


Chart 2 | The share of women in State Legislative Assemblies (%)

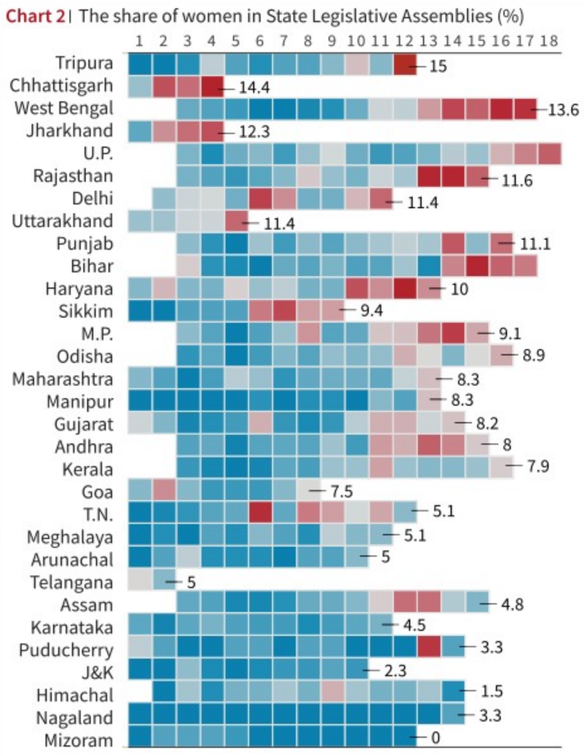


Chart 4 | Women in Parliaments of select countries (%)

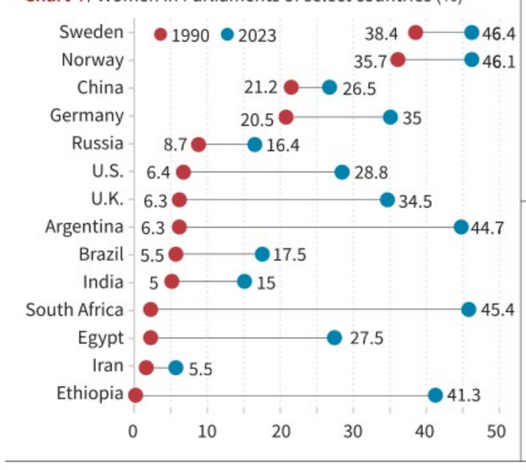
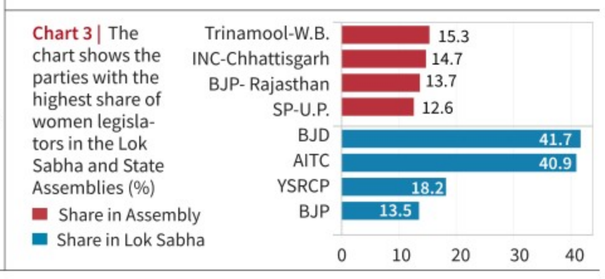


Chart 3 | The chart shows the parties with the highest share of women legislators in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies (%)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 21, 1973

Bhutto does not visualise another war with India

From Easwar Sagar

Washington, Sept. 20.

The Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Z. A. Bhutto, left Washington this morning, after two days of talks with the U.S. President, Mr. Nixon, his principal objective in coming here apparently unfulfilled.

Mr. Bhutto received assurances of continued American economic assistance and further emergency flood relief, (though not the one million tonnes of foodgrains he was seeking), but he was understood to have been told, as politely as possible, that the U.S. had no plans now to lift its existing embargo on lethal arms supplies.

Making an effort to appear reconciled to this negative response, and anxious to avoid giving the impression that this might lead to a cooling of relations with the U.S., Mr. Bhutto told a National Press Club luncheon audience yesterday that he had not really sought to change U.S. policy with regard to arms supplies to Pakistan. "I am aware of the mood of Congress, and I am aware of the mood of the American people and, therefore, I don't want to do anything that would complicate your policies."

But Mr. Bhutto did note that American leaders like Dulles (former Secretary of State) and Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy had sworn to go to Pakistan's aid in the event of aggression from any quarter.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 21, 1923

Indian students

(Associated Special Service)

London, Sept. 19.

The present large influx of Indian students is accentuating the dissatisfaction of the University and other Educational authorities at the absence of the decision of the Government of India on the proposal of the Lytton Committee, published a year ago, with regard to the abolition and replacement of the Indian Students Department. Uncertainty in this matter introduces a further element of difficulty and perplexity to problem. It is urged that in the interest of the students themselves, a prompt decision is necessary and should be facilitated by Lord Lytton's pressure in India.

From Page One

LS passes women's reservation Bill

"It is the demand of the Congress to implement the Bill immediately... But along with that, provision should be made for reservation for SC, ST and OBC women," Ms. Gandhi said.

Strongly countering the demand for a separate quota for OBCs, the Home Minister said the BJP not only had the highest number of OBC lawmakers across the political spectrum, but also a Prime Minister from the same community, referring to Mr. Modi. Giving a detailed break-up, Mr. Shah said that 85 BJP MPs, 29% of its total, were OBCs, adding that as many as 29 Ministers were also from backward communities.

The Home Minister also explained that the decision to implement reservation after delimitation is to ensure that a quasi-judicial body like the Delimitation Commission can decide, after public consultation, which seats to reserve. "Should we do it?" Mr. Shah asked, pointing out that if Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Wayanad seat or AIMIM leader Mr. Owaisi's Hyderabad seat got reserved, then the government would be charged with making a "political reservation".

Long voting process

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal claimed that it was against the provisions of the Constitution to provide reservation immediately, noting that someone may challenge it in a court of law. "We will not allow the Bill to get stuck in some technicality," he said.

As many as 60 members took part in the Lok Sabha debate that went on for nearly eight hours; 27 of them were women MPs. The voting process took nearly two hours as members voted manually, using paper slips. Electronic voting was not possible as some political parties have not yet informed the Lok Sabha secretariat about the division number or the specific seats that they will be allotting to individual members.

Census, delimitation work after LS poll: Shah

The previous two notifications by the Registrar General of India (RGI) did not specify any reason for the delay.

Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population. The last delimitation exercise took place in 1976 and the current boundaries of the Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies were drawn on the basis of the 2001 Census. The number of seats have remained frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census. Through a Constitutional amendment in 2002, a freeze was placed on delimitation, until the first Census is conducted after the year 2026.

Make a start at least, says Shah

"A narrative is being set on social media that the Bill should not be supported as it is linked to delimitation and the Act will not be implemented in the coming election. Some say the Bill does not have OBC or Muslim reservation. Will the reservation be implemented early, if you do not support the Bill? Then too it will be implemented only after 2029. Support the Bill... Make a start at least," Mr. Shah said while pointing to the Opposition benches. He added, "After [Lok Sabha] election, Census and delimitation will be done immediately and soon, the day will come when women will occupy one-third of seats in the House and decide the future of the country."

The general election is scheduled to be held in April-May 2024.

DMK MP Kanimozhi had, in the Lok Sabha expressed fears that the connection between the Census and delimitation, frozen till 2026, may lead to reduction in representation of the southern States. "I refer to the statement by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on the matter of delimitation, where he says that India is the only country that has not conducted the decadal Census. If delimitation is going to be based on population Census, it will deprive and reduce the representation of South Indian States. It will become like a sword hanging over our heads," she said.

India issues travel advisory for Canada

"Indian nationals are therefore advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents," the advisory said.

"Given the deteriorating security environment in Canada, Indian students in particular are advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant. Indian nationals and students from India in Canada must also register with the High Commission of India in Ottawa or Consulates General of India in Toronto and Vancouver through their respective websites, or the MADAD portal *madad.gov.in*," said the advisory.

Following Mr. Trudeau's accusations on Monday, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly announced the expulsion of Pavan Kumar Rai, a diplomat in the High Commission of India in Ottawa. In an unconventional move, she also announced that Mr. Rai is the head of station of Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) of India. In response, India expelled a senior Canadian diplomat on Tuesday.

Later, Mr. Trudeau reiterated that he is not trying to "provoke" India saying, "The government of India needs to take this matter [Nijjar killing] with the utmost seriousness."

White House backs probe into 'serious allegations': John Kirby

Strategic communications chief says Joe Biden is mindful of the allegations raised by Trudeau, urges India to cooperate with the investigation; he says the U.S. is going to stay in touch with both its partners, India and Canada, about this issue

Sriram Lakshman

U.S. President Joe Biden was "mindful of the serious allegations" made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about the killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the White House's strategic communications chief, John Kirby, has said, as he urged India to cooperate in the investigation.

Mr. Trudeau alleged on Monday that Indian government agents were involved in the June 18 killing of the separatist leader in Canada, an allegation that New Delhi has rejected.

"Certainly the President is mindful of these serious allegations ... and they are very serious ... and we support Canada's efforts to investigate this," Mr. Kirby told *CNN*'s Jake Tapper.

"We believe a fully transparent, comprehensive investigation is the right approach so that we can all know exactly what happened and of course we encourage India to cooperate with that."

Asked if the U.S., as a 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing partner of Canada, knew what the allegations were based on, Mr. Kirby demurred, saying he wanted to respect the sanctity of the investigation. In terms of the fallout, if the allegations were true, Mr. Kirby said once the facts were available "you can start to look at recommendations or behaviours you might want to pursue".

The U.S. is going to stay in touch with both its partners, India and Canada, about this issue, Mr. Kirby told *CBS News*.

John Kirby

The U.S. was "deeply concerned" about the allegations, U.S. National Security Council Spokesperson Adrienne Watson had said on Tuesday, adding it was critical that "the perpetrators be brought to justice".

On Wednesday, the White House defended its approach, with Ms. Watson responding to a *Washington Post* remark on social media platform X (formerly Twitter), by denying that the U.S. had snubbed Canada over the incident.

"Reports that we rebuffed Canada in any way on this are flatly false," Ms. Watson wrote, adding that the U.S. and Canada were coordinating closely on the issue. "This is a serious matter and we support Canada's ongoing law enforcement efforts. We are also engaging the Indian government," she said, countering suggestions that Washington was rebuffing Ottawa, because it had to court India as a counterweight to China.

In conducting its probe into Nijjar's death, the Government of Canada had used "energetic, quiet diplomacy" with the Modi government over the past few weeks, according to Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations Bob Rae. He alleged that the government was not engaging with the Canadian side adequately, prompting Mr. Trudeau to publicise the issue.

"I don't think anybody who really looked at this objectively would say that Canada has anything to gain from making the statement that the Prime Minister made yesterday. It was not a partisan statement, it was a statement about [sic] deep concern." Mr. Rae told *CBC News* on Tuesday. "We didn't see much coming from the other side," he said, adding this prompted Mr. Trudeau to go public.

U.S. State Department 'urges' Indian cooperation

Narayan Lakshman

In the context of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's comment on Monday that agents of the Indian government were linked to the murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the U.S. State Department has called for India's cooperation in the ongoing investigation.

Responding to a query from *The Hindu*, a State Department spokesperson said, "We urge the Indian government to cooperate in the Canadian investigation and ensure that those responsible are held to account."

The State Department's language on the subject has changed since its response on Tuesday when it said that it was "critical that Canada's investigation proceed and the perpetrators be brought to justice".

'Serious allegations', says Australia on Trudeau's remarks on killing of Nijjar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Australia thinks Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made "serious allegations" on the murder of a pro-Khalistan figure in British Columbia in June, said Foreign Minister Penny Wong in an interview with *CNN*'s Christiane Amanpour, while kickstarting her participation in the events around the UN General Assembly in New York.

> These are serious allegations and they are deeply concerning for all of us. I would note, investigations are still under way.
>
> **PENNY WONG**
> Foreign Minister of Australia

Ms. Wong expressed Canberra's support for "rule of law" while dealing with such issues and reminded that India is part of the Indo-Pacific region where Australia seeks "strategic equilibrium".

"Well, the first point I would make is, you know, these are serious allegations and, you know, they are deeply concerning for all of us. I would note, investigations are still under way. So obviously, the Australian government, wishes to wait for those investigations being finalised. But we've conveyed our concerns about the allegations and we'll keep abreast of the developments in these investigations," said Ms. Wong. The Australian Foreign Minister is is likely to engage External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during a meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers.

In response to Ms. Amanpour's question about the content of Australia's dialogue with India on the killing of Khalistan Tiger Force chief and separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Ms. Wong said, "Well, we have a general proposition, don't we Christiane, which is, you know, Australia has a view about the rule of law and we will always express that view," adding, "We have expressed our view about these issues to our Indian friends."

India's global exchanges have been intense in recent months which has highlighted New Delhi's closeness with the U.S., France, U.K. and Australia as well as the G-20. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia visited India in March and Mr. Modi reciprocated with a visit to Canberra in May. These exchanges were aimed at solidifying India's relations with the Quad member countries and France where he was the chief guest at the Bastille Day celebrations on July 14. The dispute with Canada has flown into the middle of India's engagement with Quad which is close to Canada and France which shares common French heritage with Canada.

Ms. Wong further said that Australia aspires for a "peaceful, stable and prosperous" world.

"And what is required for that sort of world is, you know, a balance or a strategic equilibrium to which all of us have to make a contribution, and India is a part of that, but so too are other countries of our region in the Indo-Pacific region," said Ms. Wong.

Canada and Australia along with the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand are members of the Five Eyes Alliance, an alliance for sharing of intelligence among the Anglo-Saxon bloc spread across the world. Prime Minister Trudeau has spoken with U.S. President Joe Biden, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and French President Macron regarding the murder of Nijjar while Mr. Albanese has refused to confirm if he had a talk with Mr. Trudeau on the issue saying, "I do not send out text messages. I keep those discussions confidential." However, it is not yet clear if Prime Minister Trudeau has shared solid evidence regarding the case with other heads of the western intelligence alliance.

NIA declares ₹10 lakh reward for info on BKI-linked operatives

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its crackdown on pro-Khalistan terrorists, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday announced a reward of ₹10 lakh each for information leading to the arrest of designated terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu, alias Rinda, and Lakhbir Singh Sandhu, alias Landa, who are allegedly linked to the banned outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

A cash reward of ₹5 lakh each has also been declared on their three associates named Parminder Singh Kaira from Ferozpur and Satnam Singh and Yadvinder Singh from Tarn Taran in Punjab. All the five accused are wanted by the agency in a case registered this year to probe the BKI's activities.

Originally from Tarn Taran, former "gangster" Rinda is a Pakistan-based BKI terrorist. He earlier lived in Nanded (Maharashtra) and had fled to Pakistan illegally in 2018-19. The NIA has accused him of smuggling of arms, ammunition, explosives, and drugs into India from Pakistan and recruiting operatives for the BKI.

In November last year, some media reports claimed that Rinda had died in a Lahore military hospital from suspected drug overdose. However, the agencies later found that he was alive.

Rinda has allegedly been involved in several terrorist activities, including a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attack on the Punjab police intelligence headquarters (Mohali) in May 2022. He was declared an "individual terrorist" through a Ministry of Home Affairs notification in February this year.

Landa, a close aide of Rinda, as alleged, was initially into criminal and gangster-related activities. In 2017, he left for Canada and has been operating from there.

He is the main accused in multiple terror cases, including the RPG attack on the Punjab police intelligence headquarters.

U.S. considering Modi's invite to Biden to be chief guest at Republic Day, says envoy

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited U.S. President Joe Biden to be chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26 next year, U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti said here on Wednesday.

While the U.S. Congress would be in session at the time, Mr. Garcetti said that the invitation is under consideration.

Mr. Biden is due to visit India in 2024 for the Quad Summit, and reports have suggested that the government is coordinating with Japanese and Australian governments to try and schedule the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral grouping's meeting at the same time.

"During their bilateral talks on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, Prime Minister Modi invited President Biden to visit for January 26. He did not mention the Quad Summit during the meeting, as that has to be coordinated between [all four countries]," Mr. Garcetti said speaking to journalists during an event hosted by the Ananta Centre, where he spoke about "Navigating the future: a post-G20 dialogue on India-U.S. bilateral relations".

Close ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with U.S. President Joe Biden at Rajghat in New Delhi. ANI

This is the third time the Modi government has issued an invitation to the U.S. President for the Republic Day parade, an honour that normally goes to a different country each year. In 2015, U.S. President Barack Obama became the first American President to officiate at Republic Day, while in 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump turned down the invitation for January 2019, due to scheduling difficulties in the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Garcetti's comments came even as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar heads to New York, where he is likely to hold a meeting with Quad Ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting. Sources said that U.S.-India Defence and Foreign Ministers' "2+2" is also being scheduled in November in Delhi this year, which will set the stage for the visit by Mr. Biden in January.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not comment on whether Mr. Biden has been invited along with other Quad leaders for the Republic Day celebrations. Sources said South Block has been keen to host the Quad Summit as early in the year as possible, given that both India and the U.S. will head to elections in 2024, and campaign schedules could make travel later in the year more difficult.

When asked, diplomatic sources said that "dates for Quad summit remain under discussion among partners", but did not rule out the possibility that the Quad summit would be held just after Republic Day, on January 27-28, which fall on a weekend.

Answering questions about the India-Canada row, Mr. Garcetti repeated the statements issued by the U.S. State Department that the U.S. considers the allegations as "serious".

Praising the government for organising the "best G-20 we have seen", Mr. Garcetti said that the effect of decisions taken during the G-20 Summit in Delhi would be "prolonged", making a particular mention of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor (IMEC).

Asked about funding and viability of the corridor, which is expected to run from Indian ports through a rail line across West Asia, and then onto Europe by ship, the American Ambassador said that what had been witnessed in the launch of the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was a "planting of the seed", and that the details of the corridor, are still to be decided upon.

Türkiye raises concern over Kashmir issue during UNGA

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the issue of Kashmir during his address to world leaders at the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly session here.

"Another development that will pave the way for regional peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia will be the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Kashmir through dialogue and cooperation between India and Pakistan," Mr. Erdogan said in his address to the General Debate on Tuesday. "As Turkiye, we will continue to support the steps to be taken in this direction."

His comment comes weeks after he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit during which the leaders discussed strengthening trade and infrastructure relations.

Rajya Sabha holds debate to felicitate Chandrayaan mission

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday held a debate to felicitate the Indian Space Research Organisation for the "successful soft-landing of Chandrayaan-3" on the south pole of moon.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar called India's journey in space exploration a matter of national pride, while Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that India's space programme should not be seen as an "instrument of muscular nationalism".

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh, during his intervention, said the government always encouraged scientists with funds and freedom which led to the successful launch of Chandrayaan-3.

The Project Director of Chandrayaan-3, P. Veeramuthuvel, who was present in the officers' gallery, was applauded by the House.

Mr. Ramesh said in his speech that Chandrayaan-3 was achieved with a budget of ₹600 crore. He said the brilliance of the scientists filled the resource gap. Countering him, Mr. Singh said the Opposition was trying to narrate a chronology to submerge facts.

Implement women's reservation Bill immediately, says INDIA bloc

Congress and other Opposition parties demand that implementation of quota be delinked from delimitation to avoid delay; they called for provision of quota within quota for women from the SC, ST, and OBC communities after a caste census

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress fielded a high-powered line-up – including Congress Parliamentary Party chief Sonia Gandhi and former party president Rahul Gandhi – in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday to express the party's support for the women's reservation Bill reserving 33% of the seats in Parliament and Assemblies for women. The party made a strong case for a caste census and reservations for Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within the women's quota.

The leaders said the legislation, Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023, should be implemented immediately, rather than linking it to a delimitation exercise that cannot be held until 2026.

Strong case: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Special Session of Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

'Quota within quota'

Apart from the Congress, an array of MPs belonging to many other Opposition parties – including the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) – demanded an OBC quota within the proposed reservation for women.

Supriya Sule of the NCP, Dimple Yadav (SP), and Sangeeta Azad (BSP) were among those who said that while they supported the Bill, the government should ensure quotas for OBCs. Janata Dal(U) MP Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan said if the government had such an intention, it would have started the caste census in 2021.

When the United Progressive Alliance government introduced its women's reservation Bill, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2010, there was no provision for any such quota either.

The Bill was grounded in the Lok Sabha as the then-government could not persuade parties friendly to it to give up their demand for OBC quota. The Congress has since changed its own stance, and the INDIA bloc parties had demanded a caste census in their resolution at the Opposition alliance's meeting in Bengaluru in July.

Ms. Gandhi, who initiated the debate on the Bill from the Opposition's side, said that along with the immediate implementation of the reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, provision should be made for reservation for women from the SC, ST, and OBC communities after conducting a caste census.

Ms. Gandhi said it was the dream of her husband and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to bring in reservation for women; his government had tried to start that process with reservations in local bodies through a Bill, which was defeated in the Rajya Sabha by seven votes in 1989. "Rajiv Gandhi's dream is only half fulfilled. It will be fulfilled with the passage of this Bill," she said.

Long wait

However, she expressed concern about the open-ended question of when the Bill would turn into a law that can be implemented, as it had been linked to the delimitation exercise which is frozen till 2026, and the census which has been delayed. "For the past 13 years, Indian women are waiting for their political responsibilities, and now they are being asked to wait for a few more years – two years, four years, six years, eight years," she said.

Mr. Gandhi also made a sharp intervention on the demand for a caste census, to be followed by a provision of caste quotas within the reservations being given to women. The discussion on this Bill, he said, was about a continuation of the transfer of power to the people that had started with Independence and universal suffrage.

Pointing to the new Parliament building, Mr. Gandhi asked why the President was not visible in the ceremonies surrounding the legislature's transfer to the new House.

"President of India is a tribal person and a woman; it would have been befitting if she had been visible in this transfer of Houses," he said.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Bill was simply a distraction for the BJP when it found itself in difficulties, as the one created by the united demand of the INDIA bloc parties for a caste census. To sharpen his point on the need for OBC reservation following a caste census, he noted that out of 90 Secretaries to the Government of India, who manage the "core of India", only three were OBCs, and they controlled just 5% of the country's budget.

"This discussion is about the transfer of power, to women and to OBCs. It is an insult and shame to the OBC community and brings us to the demand for a caste census," he said. "If you don't do it, then we will," he added.

Question of representation comes to the fore during debate

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The prickly question of representation, and who can speak on whose behalf, came to the fore in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, ironically while debating the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, or the women's reservation Bill.

As soon as the BJP's lead speaker, Jharkhand MP Nishikant Dubey, stood up to speak on the Bill that seeks to give women 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, there were protests from the Opposition Benches as to why a male MP was the first speaker on behalf of the ruling party. The Congress Legislature Party leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, and senior party MP Gaurav Gogoi raised the issue.

'Country's tradition'

At this, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stood to respond, stating that he wished to ask Mr. Chowdhury "whether only women should speak on these issues. Can't men speak on women's issues?"

He further added that "it has been the tradition of this country for brothers to think about, and speak on the welfare of, their sisters and mothers."

He alluded that since Congress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi had been that party's lead speaker that morning, Mr. Chowdhury was jealous that he had lost his chance to speak on the Bill.

This Bill is called the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'. Stop saluting us. We don't want to be saluted, we don't want to be put on pedestals, we do not want to be worshipped. We want to be respected as equals
KANIMOZHI
DMK MP

Mr. Dubey also made remarks on the same lines, citing what he termed his rustic background and his understanding of that life and the challenges for women under those circumstances.

DMK MP Kanimozhi, speaking on behalf of her party, however, added another dimension. In her speech, she said that women demanded to be treated as equals rather than being put on pedestals. "This Bill is called the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'. Stop saluting us. We don't want to be saluted, we don't want to be put on pedestals, we do not want to be worshipped. We don't want to be called mothers, we don't want to be your wives or sisters. We want to be respected as equals," she said.

She added that strong women with what society terms masculine characteristics were often termed the devil.

Referring to strong women leaders in India, she further said that she "has no hesitation in accepting that late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa was a very strong woman". Jayalalithaa was the leader of the AIADMK, the rival of the DMK in Tamil Nadu.

Paternalistic models

To sharpen her point about how paternalistic models of women's empowerment were out of sync with society, she quoted the late Arun Jaitley, BJP leader, when he had spoken about the women's reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha in 2010.

"I quote Mr. Jaitley: 'The argument that men can also ensure justice to women has been weakened. Under-representation and discrimination stare us in the face. The time has come for equal representation. The politics of tokenism must now evolve into a politics of ideas.'"

Nationalist Congress Party MP Supriya Sule also responded to Mr. Shah's remark, by stating that "not every house has a brother that likes the well-being of the sister".

Not the right cut: House security personnel hot under the collar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There is growing discontent among Parliament security personnel over the uniforms introduced for them in the Special Session. Many officers are using creative methods to escape wearing the thick canvas wear, while others have refused to don it after a couple of days.

Over 500-odd personnel employed with the security wing of Parliament are of the rank of sub-inspector and above. Speaking on condition of anonymity, many of the officers relayed their difficulties with the new uniform.

The staff in the normal course get uniform allowance ranging from ₹13,000 to ₹20,000 a year depending on their grade and entitlement. They use the money to purchase their own uniform as per the sanctioned design. This money is credited in April, but this year, it was withheld.

Voicing concerns: Security personnel in new uniform standing guard during the Special Session of Parliament. PTI

"We were told that instead of the allowance, we will be given new uniforms. The uniforms haven't been stitched to our measurements. We have to wear the sizes that are available. Some of us got the uniform but didn't get the boots," one of the officers said.

This was flagged on Wednesday by Congress leader Manickam Tagore. In a post on X, he said, "Not just reducing the security personnel to showpieces to please the ruler, this government has also cut 25,000 from each of the 600 Parliament security staff for this uniform. Why should our security personnel suffer for the Ruler's fancy dress competition."

The unanimous complaint is the lack of breathability of the fabric. "This is thick and heavy. In Delhi's hot and humid climate, we end up profusely sweating and they are not fit for the long hours we have to stand under the sun," another officer said.

Took a stand for Muslim, OBC women, says AIMIM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday with near-unanimous support from all parties, except from the two MPs of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi said his party voted against the Bill to take a stand against the non-inclusion of OBC quota in the provisions of the Bill as well as the rights of minority women.

"In India, the population of OBCs is more than 50% and you are bringing a Bill to include women who are not getting representation, will you not make provisions for OBC and minority women? The population of Muslim women is 7% and their representation so far has been 0.7%?" he said.

INBRIEF

BJP is using quota to win women's vote: Mayawati

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, on Wednesday, attacked the Centre for linking the women's reservation Bill with delimitation and census. They demanded that the quota be implemented immediately. "The Bill is being brought not to give reservation to women, but to lure them before the general elections," said Ms. Mayawati. Mr. Yadav accused the BJP of making a mockery of a serious issue such as women's reservation, adding the BJP is neither in favour of census nor caste enumeration, without which women's reservation is not possible.

Words missing from Preamble in copies given to MPs: Adhir

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Wednesday said the words "socialist" and "secular" were missing from the Preamble to the copies of the Constitution handed out to MPs while moving to the new Parliament building. He said: "They have been cleverly removed... This is a serious matter and we will raise this issue." Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal dismissed the issue, saying that the copies had carried the original version of the Preamble to the Constitution and not the amended version. "This is as per the original Preamble. Amendments were made later," he said.

Jamaat welcomes Bill, seeks quota for Muslim, OBC women

Lending its voice to the Opposition chorus for reservation of seats for OBC women within the proposed 33% quota for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind has demanded reservation for both OBCs and Muslim women. Welcoming the Bill, Jamaat's vice-president Salim Engineer said, "For a strong democracy, it is important for all groups and classes to find representation in power-sharing. However, the draft of the Bill in its current form does not address the stark social inequalities in a vast country like India by excluding women from OBCs, and Muslim community."

First public meeting of INDIA bloc likely to be held in Nagpur

The first public meeting of the Opposition Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc could be held in Nagpur in Maharashtra, informed sources said. The proposed Bhopal rally was cancelled due to the Congress's prior campaign programme around the same time as the rally. "It is proposed that we have a meeting followed by a public meeting in Nagpur. The dates have not been finalised so far. The consultations are on between the constituents about it," a senior leader said.

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Annual Rate Contract for Supply of General Items की आपूर्ती हेतु दर सविदा
(ई -बोली आंमत्रण सूचना संख्या 05/2023-24 (क्रमांक 416 दिनांक 11.09.2023))
इस विश्वविद्यालय के अधीनस्थ ईकाइयों में Annual Rate Contract for Supply of General Items की आपूर्ती हेतु दो कवर बिड (तकनीकि व वित्तीय बिड) से ऑनलाइन ई–बोली आंमत्रित की जाती है, जिसमें पंजिकृत फर्मो हेतु डी.एस.सी. के माध्यम से दिनांक 11.09.2023 से 21.09.2023 को सांय 5.00 बजे तक बोली प्रपत्र डाउनलोड कर अपलोड कर सकते है। UBN is: VAU2324GLRC00060 का विस्तृत विवरण स्टेट पोर्टल की वेबसाईट htttp//sppp.raj.nic.in विभाग की वेबसाईट www.rajuvas.org एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/23/9619 वित्त नियत्रंक

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813 | Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)
Tender Inquiry No. PPR - 23/2023 Dated: 20.09.2023
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st October 2023 to 29th February 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.mstcecommerce.com from 20.09.2023 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com
C-664/23 76155/12/2202/2023/28031

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C-663/23 76155/12/2201/2023/28030

INBRIEF

Atrocity on tribal people in Madhya Pradesh sparks row

A political row has been triggered in the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh after an office-bearer of the party's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, was filmed assaulting an elderly tribal man with slippers in Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur. The video of the September 18 incident has gone viral, bringing with it a fresh perception challenge for the BJP that is still reeling from the criticism it faced in the aftermath of the Sidhi urination episode. The Congress is in attack mode ever since the clip surfaced. The party demanded the resignation of Shivraj Singh Chouhan even as it coined a term for the BJP, "*Aadiwasi Atyachar Party* (Tribal Atrocity Party)".

Show of Canada-based singer Shubhneet Singh cancelled

BookMyShow on Wednesday cancelled Punjabi-Canadian singer Shubhneet Singh's India tour after the ticket booking app faced a boycott call on social media for hosting a singer who is allegedly a Khalistani sympathiser. In a post on X, BookMyShow said it will do a complete refund of the tickets within seven to 10 days. "Singer Shubhneet Singh's Still Rollin Tour for India stands cancelled. To that end, BookMyShow has initiated a complete refund of the ticket amount for all consumers who had purchased tickets for the show. The refund will be reflected within 7-10 working days in the customer's source account of the original transaction," it said. PTI

Akasa Air seeks action against pilots who quit without notice

Newly launched budget carrier Akasa Air has moved the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to act against pilots who left the airline without serving their mandatory notice period. Akasa Air which operated its first commercial flight between Mumbai and Ahmedabad on August 7, 2022, has seen pilots resign, affecting its operations. The airline told the court that it was in a "state of crisis" because of this and had to cancel multiple flights every day this month. The court has listed the airline's plea for further hearing on September 22. The court also queried the DGCA as to what action it takes in case flights have to be cancelled due to pilots' resignations.

'Regular jobs increased, but unemployment still a concern'

The share of workers with regular wage increased since 2004, with the country creating three million regular jobs annually till 2017 and five million jobs between 2017 and 2019, according to a report prepared by a group of economists and researchers with the Azim Premji University. Post-COVID, the report said, the unemployment rate was lower than what it was pre-COVID, for all education levels. "But it remains above 15% for graduates and more worryingly it touches a huge 42% for graduates under 25 years," it said.

Delimitation debate: gender vs regional, caste identities

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

An accelerating shift of political power from the southern States to the region above the Vindhyas was to be the central debate around the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies which is to follow the first census after 2026, but the proposed reservation of one-third of the seats in Parliament and Assemblies for women has added another power shift to the mix.

The next delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies will hence involve two shifts – from the southern to northern and eastern States, and from men to women across the country. In the process, the serious concerns regarding the diminishing say of States that have stabilised their populations in the affairs of the Union could possibly be overshadowed by the countrywide unanimity on women's empowerment.

Population skew

If Lok Sabha seats were to be redistributed according to current distribution of the population, the northern States might have as many as 32 seats more, while the southern States might have up to 24 seats fewer. Kerala could lose six of its current 20 Lok Sabha seats and Tamil Nadu 11 of its 39, according to some calculations.

Delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies was kept on hold until 2026 through a constitutional amendment in 2002 in the hope that population growth across the country will be even by then. "Northern States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have decennial growth rates of 12% to 15%, whereas, in the southern States, the decennial growth rates range between 6% and 10%. From 2011 to 2021 there was no levelling," former Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat points out. It also happens that population is growing faster in States that are BJP strongholds.

Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that Census and delimitation will be held after the 2024 polls. ANI

National parties such as the Congress, the BJP and the Left parties are less adept at handling mobilisations around caste and regional identities which fuel regional parties. They try to rely on pan-India identities such as religion, class and gender.

In fact, women's reservation is one question that had the BJP, the Congress, and the Left on the same side for the past two decades or more. OBC politics-driven parties in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar that sought caste quotas within the proposed quota for women considered the entire move as an upper caste, upper class scheme to curtail their political power. That line of resistance to women's reservation had limited logic, considering the fact that OBC representation is not dependent on reserving seats at all.

OBC politics

Though the Congress has now raised the demand it had rejected when in power, no party appears serious about pressing a demand for OBC quota within the women's quota.

So the proposed expansion of women's representation in lawmaking will weaken not only politics around regional identity, but also autonomous OBC politics in the Hindi heartland. The BJP had already subsumed caste identity politics within its Hindutva umbrella to a significant extent in the heartland. By championing women's empowerment, it is seeking further reinforcement of its social base. The pan-national category of gender complicates the unidimensional politics of caste and regional identities. For the BJP it is an additional layer to its politics of Hindu religious identity which also cuts across regions, caste and even gender.

SC to hear challenge to Section 6A of Citizenship Act from Oct. 17

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday decided to hear from October 17 a series of petitions challenging the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Section 6A is a special provision inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the 'Assam Accord' signed on August 15, 1985 by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the leaders of the Assam Movement to preserve and protect the Assamese culture, heritage, linguistic and social identity.

The Union government insisted that the Section is valid and urged the court to dismiss the petitions, filed after nearly 40 years since its enactment.

Under Section 6A, foreigners who had entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and been "ordinarily resident" in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens. Those who had entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would have the same rights and obligations, except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.

Constitution Bench to examine validity of extending quota

The 104th Constitution Amendment in 2019 had extended reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha till 2030

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday decided to examine if clockwork extensions granted to reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies were constitutionally valid.

Originally, the Constituent Assembly had meant reservation for SC/STs only for a period of 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution in 1950.

However, Article 334 of the Constitution, which dealt with the time period to cease reserving seats for SC/STs and Anglo-Indians, was amended multiple times over the decades. The deadline to stop the reservation was extended by 10 years or so. Starting with the Constitution (8th Amendment) Act in 1969 and all the way up to the Constitution (104th Amendment) Act in 2019, the deadline was stretched over and over again.

The 2019 Act terminated the reservation for the Anglo-Indian community

Article 334 of the Constitution was amended multiple times. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

and fixed 2030 as the deadline to end the reservation for SC/STs in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. By 2030, the SC/ST communities would have enjoyed reservation for 80 years since the adoption of the Constitution.

On Wednesday, the Constitution Bench decided to examine whether Parliament can use its constituent power to repeatedly amend Article 334 merely in order to keep reservation of seats for the SC/ST communities in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the States alive.

"Whether the exercise of the constituent power of amendment to extend the period prescribed for the expiration of reservation under Article 334 of the Constitution is constitutionally valid," the five-judge Bench framed the cardinal question.

The court clarified that it would be examining the validity of the 104th Constitution Amendment Act of 2019 only to the extent of its application to the SC/ST communities, and would not go into the termination of quota for the Anglo-Indian community after 70 years of enjoying the benefit.

Senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, appearing for petitioner Ashok Kumar Jain, said the relentless and repeated extensions of reservation granted to certain communities had deprived the electorate of a choice in candidates and rendered them unable to even freely cast their votes.

The Union of India, represented by Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, have contended that the 104th Constitution Amendment Act was valid. The Bench, including Justices A.S. Bopanna, M.M. Sundresh, J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, fixed the date of hearing on November 21.

NEET-PG, 2023 cut-off reduced to 'zero' percentile

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The cut-off was 50 percentile for students from general/unreserved categories and 40 for students of other reserved categories

The Union Health Ministry on Wednesday directed the National Medical Commission to reduce the qualifying percentile for the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-Post Graduate, 2023 to "zero" across all categories.

The move comes as a major relief to postgraduate medical aspirants this year and makes medical aspirants who have become eligible after reduction of percentile to edit their choices also.

Currently, the NEET-PG cut-off percentile is 50 for students from general/unreserved categories, 45 for general people with disabilities (PwD) and 40 for students of other reserved categories.

Harish Gupta, member of the Delhi Medical Council, said the decision was taken to fill all the clinical and non-clinical seats so that unlike previous years no seats remain vacant. He added that all the PG seats would be filled in accordance with the NEET-PG counselling norms and that there would be no compromise with the quality of medical education.

"We request you to reduce the NEET-PG, 2023 cut off percentile up to 30% so that most of the seats are filled in both clinical and non-clinical branches," the Indian Medical Association had previously wrote in a letter to the Ministry.

The decision has, meanwhile, received flak, with the Federation of All India Medical Association calling it "shocking". "It's ridiculous to see zero percentile candidates are eligible for getting a postgraduate seat. This makes a mockery of the standard of medical education and healthcare system in India."

Anant Bhan, researcher in global health, health policy and bioethics, said: "The move does raise concerns around quality with respect to PG medical education. It would be good for any such policy decision to be substantiated in terms of rationale, otherwise it will be seen as a way of protecting the interests of some stakeholders in medical education, like private medical colleges."

RTI activist K.V. Babu said: "It seems like the government wants to fill all the seats of private medical colleges."

TH CROSSWORD + 13975

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

1 Earn money quickly in mess, having cooked a fab steak (4,1,4,4)
8 Nationalist elected, not very distinguished (5)
9 Tough sailor crushed by marvellous girl leaving (9)
11 Losing vote finally, America's leader raged on app, spreading disinformation (10)
12 Technique to excise large swelling on eyelid (4)
14 Revolutionary fellow cracking one's complicated ciphers (2-5)
16 Heroin and ecstasy found in party at that place (7)
17 Praise by innkeeper wanting bar girl (7)
19 Engages extraordinary person to conserve institute (5,2)
21 Partly open a container (4)
22 Where television addict might be undergoing psychoanalysis (2,3,5)
25 Transfers fool breaking rules (9)
26 Emotional captain nervously chokes (5)
27 Hecklers acted horribly! Prepare for action (5,3,5)

Down

2 Amateur left unsure about principle of handling musical instrument (7)
3 'Love Me Tender' - a fantastic number, enthralled! (10)
4 Retired old fellow with back pain leaves (5)
5 Journalist's beau cuddling society girl in retreat (9)
6 Shed a tear finally, overwhelmed by extremes of burden (4)
7 Snort cocaine at start of rave in seedy hotel (7)
8 Knock back cool beer, make out over island and chill (3,2,3,3)
10 Very dependable person cheats on her? Shocked! (5,6)
13 Several anxious to receive physical education at club (10)
15 Son gets smashed, hosting wild gang wanting grand bachelor party (4,5)
18 Coastal embankment constructed awes everyone (3,4)
20 Head of space station with family going around man-made satellite (7)
23 Husband gets bare, removing top in hurry (5)
24 Chase airboats smuggling on the ocean (4)

SUDOKU

3				1		2		
	6	4				8		
			3	8				6
		3	9	7				
	7						9	
				6	5	4		
4				3	7			
		6				7	1	
		2		4				8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

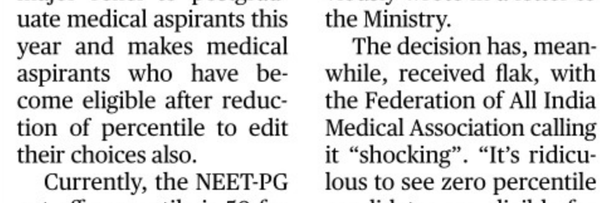
No.SS5925 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

A	N	D	E	S	I	T	E	■	T	O	R	P	O	R
R	■	E	■	C	■	H	■	T	■	C	■	O	■	E
C	O	R	S	A	I	R	■	A	R	T	I	S	A	N
A	■	M	■	N	■	O	■	K	■	E	■	E	■	E
D	E	I	S	T	■	W	R	E	S	T	L	I	N	G
E	■	S	■	I	■	O	■	F	■	■	■	D	■	A
■	■	■	L	E	A	V	E	O	N	E	C	O	L	D
A	■	S	■	S	■	E	■	R	■	S	■	N	■	E
B	A	N	G	T	O	R	I	G	H	T	S	■	■	■
A	■	A	■	■	■	B	■	R	■	A	■	S	■	J
S	U	P	E	R	N	O	V	A	■	T	E	H	E	E
H	■	P	■	E	■	A	■	N	■	E	■	U	■	T
I	C	E	O	V	E	R	■	T	A	C	T	F	U	L
N	■	R	■	U	■	D	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	A
G	U	S	H	E	R	■	A	D	O	R	N	I	N	G

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	9	6	7	5	2	4	1	8
4	5	8	6	1	9	2	3	7
1	2	7	4	8	3	9	6	5
8	6	4	1	2	5	7	9	3
5	7	3	9	4	8	1	2	6
2	1	9	3	7	6	8	5	4
7	3	2	8	6	1	5	4	9
6	8	1	5	9	4	3	7	2
9	4	5	2	3	7	6	8	1



FAITH

Krishna bats for dharma

In His manifestation as Krishna, Lord had undertaken various acts to weed out adharma and establish dharma. Smt. Vasuki Manoharan said in a discourse about the extraordinary ways and means that Krishna followed. When Duryodhana and Arjuna came to seek His support in the war, Krishna assured Duryodhana to give His army but offered Himself to Arjuna. Before going as an emissary on behalf of Pandavas, Krishna tried to elicit the opinion of Pandavas, but Sahadeva said what Krishna had in His mind would alone take place.

As an emissary, He did not go to Duryodhana's palace but went to Vidura's house only to make him not participate in the war as he had "*Vishnu Dhanus*", the most powerful weapon. Duryodhana initially thought to nominate Aswathama, the son of Dhronacharya, as the chief of his army, but Krishna ensured that it did not happen.

Krishna revealed to Karna the secret of his birth. He asked Kunthi Devi to seek two boons from Karna – not to use Nagasthra more than once, and not to kill Pandavas except Arjuna.

During the war with Karna, Arjuna told Krishna that it appeared as if Dharma Devatha stood in front of him instead of Karna. But Krishna pacified Arjuna and asked him to continue the fight.

LONDON

British PM delays ban on new petrol and diesel cars by 5 years

AFP

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday said he is delaying by five years a ban on new petrol and diesel cars that had been due to take effect in 2030, watering down climate goals that he said imposed "unacceptable costs" on ordinary people. The move angered green groups and opposition politicians. AP

LAHORE

Imran charged under 'criminal conspiracy' in May 9 violence case

REUTERS

Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan has been charged with "criminal conspiracy", which carries a maximum sentence of death penalty, for "masterminding" the May 9 attack on Army installations and inciting the people to mutiny, a senior Punjab Police official said on Wednesday. PTI

RIYADH

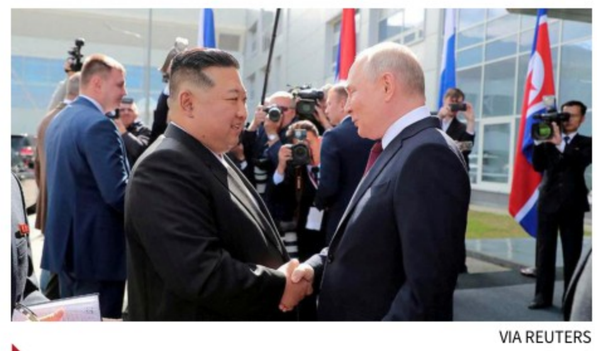
Saudis, Houthis hail talks as push continues to end Yemen's war

AFP

Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman (right) meeting a delegation of Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Riyadh. The five days of talks were "positive", Saudi officials and a Houthi leader said, after the delegation ended the first public visit to the Saudi capital since hostilities broke out. AFP

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim returns home after week-long Russia trip



VIA REUTERS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has returned to Pyongyang, after wrapping up a week-long Russia tour. Mr. Kim's tour of Russia's far east included a summit with President Vladimir Putin, which fanned Western fears that Pyongyang could provide Moscow with weapons for its drawn-out invasion of Ukraine. AFP

Karabakh operation halted: Azerbaijan

Authorities say they stopped the military operation launched in the region on Tuesday once separatist officials announced laying down arms; Armenia says it did not take part in discussing or negotiating the deal, but 'has taken note' of the decision made by the region's separatist authorities

Associated Press
YEREVAN

Azerbaijan and Armenian forces reached a ceasefire agreement on Wednesday to end two days of fighting in the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region that has been a flashpoint for decades, officials on both sides said.

An hour after the truce was announced, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said the intensity of the hostilities in the region "has decreased drastically". Azerbaijani authorities said they had halted the military operation launched a day earlier once separatist officials said they were laying down arms.

Both sides in the conflict agreed to talks on Thursday on the "reintegration" of the region into Azerbaijan. That, in addition to guarantees to lay down arms, was widely viewed as a victory for Baku.

On Tuesday, Azerbaijan unleashed heavy artillery fire on Armenian positions in Nagorno-Karabakh – a mountainous region that is part of Azerbaijan and came under the control of ethnic Armenian forces during a separatist war in the 1990s.

Scores of people were reportedly killed and wounded in the latest fighting. The hostilities also exacerbated an already grim humanitarian situation for residents who have suffered food and medicine shortages for months as Azerbaijan instituted a blockade of the road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia.

Moving to safety: Russian peacekeepers help evacuate refugees from separatist stronghold Stepanakert. AFP

The escalation raised concerns that a full-scale war in the region could resume between Azerbaijan and Armenia, which have been locked in a struggle over the region since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The most recent heavy fighting occurred over six weeks in 2020, when Azerbaijan retook parts of the region and areas around it that were lost in the earlier separatist war.

The conflict has long drawn in powerful regional players, including Russia and Turkiye. While Turkiye threw its weight behind Azerbaijan, Russia has taken on a mediating role and brokered the armistice that ended the 2020 fighting. Its contingent of peacekeepers, in fact, are charged with monitoring that truce, and both sides said on Wednesday that they helped reach the current agreement.

Russia's Defence Ministry said some of its peacekeepers were killed on Wednesday. The Ministry said the peacekeeping contingent had evacuated more than 3,100 civilians.

The deal envisions the withdrawal of Armenian military units and equipment from Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as disarming the local defence forces, Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said. Armenia's Mr. Pashinyan said his government did not take part in discussing or negotiating the deal, but "has taken note" of the decision made by the region's separatist authorities.

U.S. Attorney-General denies 'politicisation' of Justice Department

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. Attorney-General Merrick Garland strongly denied on Wednesday that politics steered his investigative decisions, pushing back on Republican allegations that he has "weaponised" the Justice Department against President Joe Biden's top rival Donald Trump.

With a Garland-appointed special counsel, Jack Smith, now pursuing two criminal prosecutions of Mr. Trump, the justice chief said in prepared testimony for a House Judiciary Committee hearing that he was neither Mr. Biden's attorney nor Congress's prosecutor. "Our job is not to take orders from the President, from Congress, or from anyone else, about who or what to criminally investigate," he said. "Our job is to follow the facts and the law, wherever they lead. And that is what we do."

Mr. Garland was expected to come under scathing criticism from Republicans for prosecuting Mr. Trump while allegedly soft-pedaling an investigation of Mr. Biden's son Hunter.

Committee Chairman Jim Jordan has accused Mr. Garland of doing Democratic President Biden's bidding by going after his likely opponent in next year's White House race.

Strip Russia of veto power, Zelenskyy says in UN address

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday confronted Russia directly at the UN Security Council, denouncing the Kremlin's invasion of his country as "criminal" and urging the United Nations to strip Moscow of its veto power.

Clad in his trademark military fatigues, Mr. Zelenskyy for the first time since the February 2022 invasion sat in the same room as a Russian official, who responded by scrolling through his smartphone with a look of conspicuous disinterest.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

"Most of the world recognises the truth about this war," Mr. Zelenskyy said. "It is a criminal and unprovoked aggression by Russia against our nation aimed at seizing Ukraine's territory and resources."

He called on the United Nations to vote to end Russia's veto power on the Security Council.

He said the move could be among wide-ranging reforms at the Security Council that would include permanent representation for developing nations – where support for Ukraine has been lukewarm.

"Veto power in the hands of the aggressor is what has pushed the UN into a deadlock," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

"It is impossible to stop the war because all efforts are vetoed by the aggressor or those who condone the aggressor," he said.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov defended his country's use of its veto power at the UN Security Council as a "legitimate tool" of international relations.

Women face tougher penalties as Iran MPs pass dress code Bill

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian women who flout the strict Islamic dress code mandating head coverings and modest clothing would face up to 10 years' prison under a Bill passed on Wednesday.

The push to step up penalties comes a year after a wave of protests sparked by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who had been arrested for allegedly breaching the rules.

Iran's legislature approved "the 'Support for the Culture of Hijab and Chastity' Bill for a trial period of three years," the official IRNA news agency reported. The Bill still requires approval by the Guardian Council.

Under the Bill, violations would be punished most severely if they are considered linked to what Iran regards as hostile foreign forces.

Women breaching the dress rules "in cooperation with foreign or hostile governments, media, groups or organisations" could face five to 10 years' prison.

Those seen "half-naked in public spaces" would also face lengthy jail terms.

Women driving cars without a hijab or wearing "inappropriate clothing" would be fined five million rials, or around $10.

The draft law also imposes fines against anyone "promoting nudity" or "mocking the hijab" in the media. Business owners whose women staff break the dress rules could be banned from exiting the country.

6 Palestinians killed in latest fighting with Israel

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank and unrest in the Gaza Strip have killed six Palestinians, Palestinian health officials said on Wednesday. At least three of those killed were claimed as militant fighters.

The death toll from the most recent flare-up stood at four late on Tuesday. But on Wednesday the Palestinian Health Ministry raised it, saying an Israeli raid into the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank killed four people and wounded some 30 others, while a raid in a separate refugee camp killed another Palestinian. A sixth Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire in unrest in the Gaza Strip, officials said.

सेन्ट्रल माइन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाइन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834031, JHARKHAND, INDIA

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in/** respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI,**www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in."

कार्यालय जिला कलक्टर, नागौर
E-mail: dsongr.des@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांक: सांख्यिकी/ लेखा/ निविदा/2023/775 दिनांक: 19.09.2023
Expression of Interest (EOI) सूचना संख्या 03/2023-24
श्रीमान प्रमुख शासन सचिव आयोजना विभाग, राजस्थान सरकार जयपुर के पत्रांक एफ17 (8) 5/ डीईएस/ रा.ज.आ.यो./ कार्ड/ 2019/ 2644 दिनांक 18.09.2023 के द्वारा जन सम्मान किट का मुद्रण व वितरण कार्य सम्पादन हेतु RTPP नियमों के नियम 17 (1) (ख) के अनुसार घोषित State Administered Price पर पंजिकृत/ अनुभवी संवेदकों/ बिडर्स के चयन हेतु **Expression of Interest (EOI)** आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी एवं डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
NIB Number: ELE2324A0083
UBN: ELE2324SLSS00197
DIPR/C/...../2023
(डॉ अमित यादव)
जिला कलक्टर नागौर

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number:U40109PB2010SGC033813 | Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact no. 96461-20640)
Tender Enquiry no. 1581/CS&HMMC/O&M/PC-2474 Dated: 19-09-2023
Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat, invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Idlers Frames for CHP Stage-I & II**. Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **19-09-2023** at 17:00 hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP-78/23 **76155/12/2200/2023/28024**

Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST)
Department of IT, Suraj and Science Technology (Govt. of Uttarakhand)
Vigyan Dham, Jhajra, Chakrata Road, Dehradun-248015 [UK]
(Tel: 0135-2976266, Website: www.ucost.uk.gov.in)
No. : UCS&T/STEM/2023/24469 Date: 19-09-2023
Registration of Vendors for Setting of STEM Education Facility
Applications are invited from reputed STEM education resource material suppliers and service providers for setting up of Jigyasa Kaksh (STEM & Innovation Corners) in schools of Uttarakhand. Interested agencies having proven experience in setting up of such facilities in various schools across the country may register with the Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST). Particulars may be furnished in the Performa available in the website: https://ucost.uk.gov.in/; Last date of submission is 3:00 PM of 4th October, 2023 to above mentioned address by Speed Post/Registered Post Only. Agencies found capable and resourceful shall be issued tender.
Director General

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist.
Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2: Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 004231	For Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3 nos. of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) (5 KLD 10 KLD & 20 KLD Capacities) and its auxiliaries at TNPL Unit - I Plant.	05.10.2023
232413 004008	Procurement of Stator and Rotor (IMP)	10.10.2023
232413 004009	Procurement of Leco AC500TCR Isoperibol Calorimeter with Accessories	10.10.2023
232423 002492	Procurement of Clay No-1 (Spray Dried) for Board Machine for TNPL Unit - II	06.10.2023
Email	232413004231 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in 232413004008; 4009 - purchase.imp@tnpl.co.in 232423002492 - purchaseimp.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/5174/Tender/2023 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16
TENDER NOTICE
TENDER NOTICE NO.09/2023-2024/SDO/DATED:15.09.2023
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu an Item Rate tender through online only will be received **upto 11.10.2023, 14.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai for One High Level Bridge Work in respect of **Vellore (H) Projects Division** under **Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme 2023-2024.**
Name of the work, approximate value of work, EMD, tender documents and all other details are available **from 22.09.2023, 10.00 hours** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc., related to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16
DIPR/5149/TENDER/2023

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
25 SEPTEMBER 2023
Prior registration compulsory.
Registration is free.
For info: jobs@abilityfoundation.org

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Jobseekers' qualifications and skills will be matched to your vacancy requirements.
Register at the earliest.
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REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
29 SEPTEMBER 2023
Prior registration compulsory.
Registration is free.
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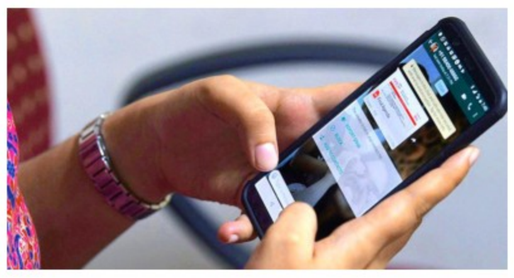
INBRIEF



WhatsApp to add rival in-app payment options in India

WhatsApp said on Wednesday that it will offer credit card payments and services from rival digital payment providers within its app in India. WhatsApp has more than 500 million users in India, though regulators here have capped its in-app WhatsApp Pay service to 100 million people. People shopping on WhatsApp could also pay using popular services like Google Pay, Paytm and PhonePe but only after being redirected outside WhatsApp. REUTERS

'Ola Electric plans IPO by Oct. end in expedited listing plan'

Ola Electric plans to file regulatory papers for its up to $700 million IPO before October end, as the e-scooter maker fast-tracks its listing move, three people with direct knowledge said. Backed by investors including Singapore's Temasek and Japan's SoftBank, Ola Electric was valued at $5.4 billion in a recent fund raising. In an email to bankers and lawyers, an Ola Electric executive asked external advisers to give "utmost priority" to meet a five-week deadline, sources said. REUTERS

J&J Vision unveils SILK laser vision correction procedure

Johnson & Johnson Vision announced a limited market release to introduce Smooth Incisions Lenticule Keratomileusis (SILK) procedure for vision correction surgeries. The procedure is performed using next-generation laser vision correction solution that gently creates a small disk-shaped lens called a lenticule, in the cornea. The lenticule is delicately removed through a microscopic incision, and the cornea is reshaped to help patients see flawlessly, the company said.

ADB lowers India GDP growth outlook for this fiscal to 6.3%

Asian lender cites weak exports, erratic rains as reason; sees increase in private investment, industrial output helping lift growth to 6.7% next year

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday pared its forecast for India's economic growth in the current fiscal year to 6.3%, from 6.4% estimated earlier, citing the impact of declining exports and erratic rainfall patterns that could hit farm output.

The ADB's economists also raised their inflation forecast for the year to 5.5%, from 5% estimated in April, and retained their real GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7%, on expectations that private investment and industrial output would increase.

Noting that the economy displayed robust growth of 7.8% in the first quarter of this fiscal year despite global uncertainties, the Bank said it expects growth to be propelled by "robust domestic consumption as consumer confidence improves, and by investment including large increases" in government capital expenditure through the rest of this fiscal and the next year.

"However, as slowing exports could foment headwinds for the economy, and erratic rainfall patterns are likely to undermine agricultural output, the growth forecast for this year is revised down marginally to 6.3%," the Bank noted in its Asian Development Outlook update.

"Monsoon rainfall under the influence of a developing El Niño has led to erratic weather patterns, including flooding in certain regions and deficient rains, particularly in August. The erratic rainfall patterns have resulted in damage to the rice crop in particular and lower sowing for pulses in the kharif season," the multilateral lender pointed out, adding that it had slashed its farm sector growth outlook for the year by almost one percentage point.

The ADB was upbeat on investment prospects in the economy, despite a decline in net foreign direct investment flows in the first quarter to $5 billion from $13.4 billion last year.

'States spending more'

Rana Hasan, the Bank's regional economic advisor for South Asia, said that investments were currently driven in a big way by the Central government's capital expenditure push, but the latest quarter's numbers showed that States had also ramped up investments by 78%.

"Moreover, signs of private capex can be gauged from the 19% growth in bank credit in the first quarter with a decline in banks' non-performing loans, and an uptick in capacity utilisation rates in several industries with a better policy environment for manufacturing," Mr. Hasan observed.

Signs of private capex can be gauged from the 19% growth in bank credit in the first quarter

Tempering expectations

ADB pares its FY24 GDP growth view on concerns that the erratic rains in this year's monsoon could hit farm ouput

- Erratic rainfall has resulted in damage to rice crop, lower kharif sowing for pulses, says Bank
- Lender slashes its farm sector growth outlook for the year by almost 1 percentage point
- Says uptick in capacity utilisation in several industries reflects better policy environment

Row 'unlikely to deter Canadian investments in India'

Jyoti Banthia
BENGALURU

The New Delhi-Ottawa diplomatic row over the killing of a Sikh leader in British Columbia is unlikely to affect the flow of Canadian investments into India, according to experts.

"The India-Canada relationship is based on mutual benefits," said Pratim Ranjan Bose, an independent researcher and consultant. "The investments will not be at risk immediately," he added.

Bilateral ties between the two nations hit a low after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged India's involvement in the killing of pro-Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This was followed by tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats by both nations.

Canada is the 17th largest foreign investor, with overall investment of about $3.3 billion from April 2000 to March 2023, according to Invest India.

During the period, Canadian investments represented about 0.5% of total FDI flows into the country.

(*The writer is with The Hindu businessline*)

Centre mulls annual audit of raw material vendors by drug firms

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

India is considering making it mandatory for drugmakers to audit their raw material suppliers, at least once a year.

Mooted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation at a meeting of drugmakers on revised Schedule M (GMP) earlier this month, the proposal comes in the backdrop of the World Health Organisation flagging cough syrups made in India in the context of the deaths of several children in The Gambia and Uzbekistan.

In a presentation, the regulator said the proposed annual audit will replace the existing self-inspection, quality audits and supplier audits. The suppliers' audit will cover raw material and packaging material.

Pointing out "all countries are looking at India for medicines" and compliance to good manufacturing practices is mandatory, the regulator listed concerns including excipient compatibility and stability studies, quality culture at all levels, data integrity and multi-product manufacturing facilities.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	66,801	-1.18
US Dollar	83.11	0.06
Gold	60,300	0.81
Brent oil	94.24	-

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2470.30	-32.15
Adani Ports	818.05	-13.20
Apollo Hosp	5006.30	-68.85
Asian Paints	3214.35	8.05
Axis Bank	1027.30	2.55
Bajaj Auto	5182.95	6.30
Bajaj Finserv	1553.35	-6.60
Bajaj Finance	7539.00	-9.65
Bharti Airtel	910.70	-9.50
BPCL	352.55	-7.80
Britannia Ind	4527.40	-68.80
Cipla	1239.70	-0.85
Coal India	284.30	3.05
Divis Lab	3779.60	-5.70
Dr Reddys Lab	5615.05	-112.95
Eicher Motors	3441.20	9.45
Grasim Ind	1944.70	-12.75
HCL Tech	1293.40	-11.60
HDFC Bank	1563.70	-65.35
HDFC Life	648.20	-11.75
Hero MotoCorp	3061.85	-52.80
Hindalco	478.30	-6.20
Hind Unilever	2466.85	-21.80
ICICI Bank	987.15	-3.05
IndusInd Bank	1440.45	-16.45
Infosys	1490.25	-1.55
ITC	452.95	0.90
JSW Steel	786.75	-22.05
Kotak Bank	1789.45	-8.90
L&T	2890.00	-29.85
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5473.45	-40.30
M&M	1634.00	-7.45
Maruti Suzuki	10346.75	-175.35
NestleIndia	22680.25	-139.15
NTPC	241.75	0.55
ONGC	188.20	1.45
PowerGrid Corp	204.65	4.55
Reliance Ind	2382.15	-54.30
SBI Life	1345.20	-28.50
State Bank	601.10	-2.85
Sun Pharma	1153.15	5.50
TataConsumerProduct	869.70	-11.25
Tata Motors	638.50	-2.15
Tata Steel	128.30	-2.15
TCS	3606.05	-0.10
Tech Mahindra	1274.35	-15.45
Titan	3306.65	-32.85
UltraTech Cement	8458.15	-169.85
UPL	622.50	-7.60
Wipro	430.10	-6.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.87	83.19
Euro	88.68	89.03
British Pound	102.45	102.85
Japanese Yen (100)	56.05	56.27
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.40
Swiss Franc	92.45	92.82
Singapore Dollar	60.79	61.03
Canadian Dollar	61.70	61.96
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	53.70	53.91

Source:Indian Bank

Akasa Air gets nod to fly global routes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Mumbai-based budget airline Akasa Air has received the government's nod to fly global routes, which it is likely to do before the year-end, the company announced, despite mass flight cancellations in the past three months as more than 40 pilots walked out to join rival Tata-led Air India Express.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has designated Akasa Air as an "International Scheduled Operator". This allows the airline to fly to international destinations. According to a senior government official, the allocation of Traffic Rights is being finalised by the Ministry. Traffic Rights involve the number of seats or air capacity that two countries allow each other. The government then distributes these rights among the airlines in the country.

Started in August 2022, Akasa Air inducted its 20th aircraft last month. Government rules mandate an airline to have at least 20 aircraft to commence international flights.

'To target South Asia'

"We will soon be able to announce the international destinations we will fly to," Founder and CEO Vinay Dube said in a press statement. "We are targeting destinations... in South Asia, Southeast Asia" and West Asia, Mr. Dube was quoted as having added.

AGEL, TotalEnergies tie up for renewable energy portfolio

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

AGEL will contribute the assets, while TotalEnergies will make $300-mn equity investment

Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) and TotalEnergies have entered into a binding agreement to create a new 50:50 joint venture (JV), with a renewable energy portfolio of 1,050 MWs.

This portfolio will comprise a mix of already operational (300 MWs), under construction (500 MWs) and under-development assets (250 MWs), with a blend of solar and wind power, Adani Group said.

AGEL will contribute the assets to the JV, while TotalEnergies will make an equity investment of $300 million, which will further support their development, the firm added.

"The investment will further strengthen the pivotal role played by AGEL in India's glide path to decarbonisation," said Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani.

"This JV will enable us to speed up our development through direct access to a large portfolio of assets," said Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman & CEO, TotalEnergies.

Haworth International plans unit near Chennai

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Leading global furniture maker Haworth International has initiated steps to double production capacity by setting up a second plant at Sriperumbudur at a cost of $8-10 million, said president Henning Figge.

"The new unit is being set up with the aim to further increase our footprint in the Asia-Pacific region and to reduce dependency on China," he told mediapersons. Stating that it was difficult to specify any timeframe for the new unit, he said that the company had acquired 7 acres opposite the existing unit.

Stellantis's Jeep brand eyes doubling sales, increasing localisation

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The iconic American Jeep brand, now part of the Stellantis group, has a strategy to double sales in India to about 1,200 units a month by next quarter and increase local sourcing of components to more than 90%, from 70% now, to make its SUVs affordable, a top executive said.

"Jeep is here to stay," said Aditya Jairaj, Head Jeep Brand Operations, Stellantis India Private Ltd. "One thing we are focusing on is the need to think globally and act locally. So, localisation is a key element," he added. The firm said it had made Jeep Compass automatic affordable by ₹6 lakh to increase sales in the compact SUV segment. Mr. Jairaj said more export markets were being explored to increase production volume. "Currently we are exporting to 17 countries and looking at expanding," he added.

Aditya Jairaj

'AbhiBus aims to quadruple ticket revenue in Tamil Nadu'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Bus ticket booking service provider AbhiBus expects ticket revenue to double every year on a pan India level and by four times from Tamil Nadu, said COO Rohit Sharma.

"We have grown fourfold from pre-COVID levels," Mr. Sharma told mediapersons. "Currently, South accounts for 40-45% of our revenue," he added.

On Wednesday, the online bus ticketing platform announced its formal entry into Tamil Nadu with the appointment of actor Silambarasan T.R. as the brand ambassador.

COVETED HONOUR

Harmanpreet, Lovlina to be flag-bearers at opening ceremony

Hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be the flag-bearers of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, said Bhupender Singh Bajwa, the *chef de mission* for the Games. A record number of 655 Indian athletes are competing in the continental showpiece.

RARING TO GO

Joe Root looks to emulate 2019 World Cup success in India

England's Joe Root is counting on his squad to draw from the lessons they learned in the 2019 World Cup as it looks to defend their title later this year. "Having the experience of how much that meant to the group and for them to go out and get the opportunity to defend it is something we are relishing and really looking forward to."

UNCERTAINTY

Southee to undergo surgery, call on WC availability next week

New Zealand veteran fast bowler Tim Southee is set to undergo a surgery on his injured right thumb on Thursday and a call on his availability for the World Cup in India will be taken next week. Southee broke and dislocated his right thumb while attempting to take a catch in the fourth ODI against England last week.

VENUES CONFIRMED

NY, Dallas, and Florida to host T20 World Cup matches in 2024

The ICC on Wednesday confirmed that Broward County (Florida), Grand Prairie (Dallas) and Eisenhower Park (New York) will host matches in the USA-leg of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup next year. This is the first time the tournament will be played in USA and it will co-host it with the West Indies. England is the defending champion.

Indian spikers stun higher-ranked South Korea

The volleyball team beats three-time gold medallist 3-2 to top Pool C and enters the knock-out stage with five points; Jaideep's men had lost the last five matches to the same opponent

ASIAN GAMES

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

Indian volleyball team held its nerve in a tense contest against South Korea to walk away with a thrilling 25-27, 29-27, 25-22, 20-25, 17-15 victory in the Asian Games here at the Linping Sports Center Gymnasium on Wednesday. India topped the Group C table with five points to its name and has qualified for the next stage.

The Indian spikers lost the last five matches against the South Koreans going into this contest. Korea has a world ranking of 27 and is the fourth-best nation in the continent.

India is the 73rd in the world and is ranked 19th in Asia behind the likes of neighbouring Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Against this backdrop, India blew a 2-1 lead at the end of the third set and two match points in the fifth set. Korea edged ahead to a match point and it looked like it would be a sixth successive loss to Korea in their head-to-head meetings.

Despite having the odds stacked against them, it was India who ran the proceedings by picking the right areas to attack. At no point did Korea run away with the game and it was left playing catch up against the rampaging Indians.

India ran them close in a see-saw opening set but Korea eventually saw it out with a 27-25 scoreline after an error from Ashwal Rai.

Fighting back

Led by skipper Vinit Kumar, India fought back in the second period with the help of Ashwal's allround display.

As the Indians huddled together in celebration, the sprawled out Koreans on the floor told a story in itself.

"Korea only played a power game through the match. Jump and attack. Dead block and score. Boom, boom!We played a cunning game against them," said Coach Jaideep Sarkar.

In the third set, again, India went 20-14 ahead. A jittery spell from the Indians allowed Korea back into the set but the points cushion allowed India to play the waiting game with a service error handing it the set 25-22.

Korea won the fourth game 25-20 to set up a tantalising final set.

In the fifth set, with the scoreline reading 15-14 in the favour of Korea, L.M. Manoj came up with two back-to-back points to set up a match point for India before Erin Varghese effected a block to seal the win.

India's jumbo contingent begins the hunt for medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games

World and Olympic javelin champion Neeraj will spearhead the challenge for the country as it strives to improve upon its previous record haul of 70 in the last edition at Jakarta in 2018

ARCHERY

Recurve: Men: Atanu Das, Dhiraj Bommadevara, Mrinal Chauhan, Tushar Shelke; **Women:** Bhajan Kaur, Prachi Singh, Ankita Bhakat, Simranjeet Kaur.

Compound: Men: Prathamesh Jawkar, Rajat Chauhan, Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma; **Women:** Avneet Kaur, Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Gopichand, Parneet Kaur.

ATHLETICS

Men: Javelin: Neeraj Chopra, Kishore Kumar Jena; **Shot put:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Sahib Singh; **Long jump:** M. Sreeshankar, Jeswin Aldrin; **Triple jump:** Praveen Chithravel, Abdulla Aboobacker; **High jump:** Sarvesh Anil Kushare, Jesse Sandesh; **Decathlon:** Tejaswin Shankar; **200m:** Amlan Borgohain; **400m:** Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal; **400m hurdles:** T. Santhosh Kumar, Yashas Palaksha; **4x400m relay:** Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Arokia Rajiv, Amoj Jacob, Mijo Chacko Kurian, Rajesh Ramesh, Arul Rajalingam; **800m:** Krishan Kumar, Mohammed Afsal; **1,500m:** Ajay Kumar Saroj, Jinson Johnson; **5,000m:** Avinash Sable, Gulveer Singh; **10,000m:** Gulveer Singh, Karthik Kumar; **3,000m steeplechase:** Avinash Sable; **Marathon:** Man Singh, Belliappa Bopaiah; **20km race walk:** Sandeep Kumar, Akshdeep Singh.

Women: Javelin: Annu Rani; **Shot put:** Kiran Baliyan, Manpreet Kaur; **Hammer:** Tanya Chaudhary, Rachna Kumari; **Discus:** Seema Punia; **Long jump:** Shaili Singh, Ancy Sojan; **Triple jump:** Sheena Varkey; **High jump:** Rubina Yadav, Pooja; **Pole vault:** Pavithra Vengatesh; **100m hurdles:** Jyothi Yarraji, Nithya Ramraj; **200m:** Jyothi Yarraji; **400m hurdles:** Vithya Ramraj, Sinchal Kaveramma Ravi; **4x400m relay:** Soniya Baishya, Florence Barla, Subha Venkateshan, Prachi, Aishwarya Mishra, Himanshi Malik, Jisna Mathew; **800m:** Harmilan Bains, K.M. Chanda; **1,500m:** Harmilan Bains, Deeksha; **5,000m:** Ankita, Parul Chaudhary; **3,000m steeplechase:** Parul Chaudhary, Priti Lamba; Heptathlon: Swapna Barman, Nandini Agasara; **20km race walk:** Priyanka Goswami.

Mixed: Team 35km race walk: Ram Baboo, Manju Rani; **4x400m relay:** Muhammed Anas, Nihal Joel William, Rahul Baby, Soniya Baishya, Aishwarya Mishra, Jisna Mathew.

BADMINTON

Men: Singles: H.S. Prannoy, K. Srikanth, Lakshya Sen, Mithun Manjunath; Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila, M.R. Arjun.

Women: Singles: P.V. Sindhu, Ashmita Chaliha, Anupama Upadhyaya, Malvika Bansod; **Doubles:** Gayatri Gopichand, Treesa Jolly, Ashwini Ponnappa, Tanisha Crasto.

Mixed doubles: Tanisha Crasto, Sikki Reddy, Rohan Kapoor, K. Sai Pratheek.

BASKETBALL

Men: 3x3: Princepal Singh, Pranav Prince, Lokendra Singh, Sahaij Sekhon.

Women: 3x3: Anumaria Shaju, Siya Deodhar, Yashneet Kaur, Vaishnavi Yadav; **5x5:** Manmeet Kaur, Anmolpreet Kaur, Poonam Chaturvedi, Madhu Kumari, Shireen Limaye, Bhandavya Mahesha, Sanjana Ramesh, Sreekala Ran, Sruthy Rathinavel, Pushpa Senthil Kumar, Kavitha Jose, Sahana Mohan.

BOXING

Men: Deepak Bhoria (51kg); Sachin Siwach (57kg); Shiva Thapa (63.5kg); Nishant Dev (71kg); Lakshya Chahar (80kg); Sanjeet (92kg); Narender Berwal (plus 92kg).

Women: Nikhat Zareen (50kg); Preeti Pawar (54kg); Parveen Hooda (57kg); Jaismine Lamboria (60kg); Arundhati Chaudhary (66kg); Lovlina Borgohain (75kg).

BRIDGE

Teams: Open: Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Sumit Mukherjee, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare.

Mixed: B. Satyanarayana, Rajeev Khandelwal, Sandeep Karmarkar, Kiran Nadar, Himani Khandelwal, Marianne Karmarkar.

Ladies: Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Alka Kshirsagar, Bharti Dey, Kalpana Gurjar, Vidya Patel.

CANOEING

Men: C1 1000m: Sunil Singh Salam; **Slalom (kayak):** Hitesh Kewat, Subham Kewat; **Slalom (canoe):** Vishal Kewat Sein; **C2 500m: Team:** Ribason Singh Ningthoujam, Gyaneshwor Singh Philem; **C2 1000m: Team:** Arjun Singh, Niraj Verma.

Women: Slalom (kayak): Shikha Chouhan; **C2 500: Team:** Shivani Verma, Megha Pradeep; **C2 200m: Team:** Kaveri, Neha Devi Leichondam; **K4 500m: Team:** Binita Chanu Oinam, Parvathy Geeta, Dimita Devi Touam, Soniya Devi Phairembam.

CHESS

Men: D. Gukesh, Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi, P. Harikrishna, R. Praggnanandhaa.

Women: K. Humpy, D. Harika, R. Vaishali, Vantika Agrawal, B. Savitha Shri.

CLIMBING

Speed climbing: Men: Aman Verma, Dhiraj Dinkar Birajdar; **Women:** Anisha Verma, Shivpreet Pannu.

Lead and Bouldering: Men: Bharath Kamath; **Women:** Prateeksha Arun, Saniya Shaikh.

CRICKET

Men: Ruturaj Gaikwad, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rahul Tripathi, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Ravi Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Shivam Dube, Prabhsimran Singh, Akash Deep.

Standbyes: Yash Thakur, Sai Kishore, Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Sai Sudharsan.

Women: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Amanjot Kaur, Devika Vaidya, Pooja Vastrakar, Titas Sadhu, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Minnu Mani, Kanika Ahuja, Uma Chetry, Anusha Bareddy.

Standbyes: Harleen Deol, Kashvee Gautam, Sneh Rana, Saika Ishaque.

CYCLING

Men: Sprint: Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam, Rojit Singh Yanglem, David Beckham Elkatohchoongo, Esow Alben; **Madison:** Harshveer Singh Sekhon, Vishavjeet Singh; **Team Pursuit:** Venkappa Shivappa, Neeraj Kumar, Manjeet Kumar, Dinesh Kumar.

Women: Sprint: Celestina, Triyasha Paul, Mayuri Lute, Sushikala Agashe.

EQUESTRIAN

Men: Eventing: Apoorva Dabade, Vikas Kumar, Ashish Limaye; **Dressage:** Hriday Chheda, Anush Agarwalla; **Show jumping:** Kirat Singh Nagra, Yash Nensee, Tejas Dhingra.

Women: Divyakriti Singh, Sudipti Hajela.

ESPORTS

FIFA Online 4: Charanjot Singh, Karman Singh Tikka; **Street Fighter V:** Champion Edition: Mayank Prajapati, Ayan Biswas; **League of Legends:** Akshaj Shenoy, Samarth Trivedi, Mihir Ranjan, Aditya Selvaraj, Aakash Shandilya, Sanindhya Malik; **Dota 2:** Darshan Bata, Krish Gupta, Abhishek Yadav, Ketan Goyal, Shubham Goli.

FENCING

Men: Foil: Dev, Arjun, Bibish Kathiresan, Akash Kumar.

Women: Epee: Taniksha Khatri, Ena Arora, Yashikeerat Kaur, Jyothika Dutta.

Individual sabre: Bhavani Devi.

FOOTBALL

Men: Gurmeet Singh, Dheeraj Singh, Sumit Rathi, Narender Gahlot, Chinglensana Singh, Lalchungnunga, Deepak Tangri, Sandesh Jhingan, Amarjit Singh Kiyam, Samuel James, Rahul KP, Abdul Rabeeh, Ayush Dev, Bryce Miranda, Azfar Noorani, Rahim Ali, Vincy Bareto, Sunil Chhetri, Rohit Danu, Gurkirat Singh, Aniket Jadhav, Vishal Yadav.

Women: Astam Oraon, Jyoti, Manisha, Renu, Ritu Rani, Sanju, Sangita Basfore, Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Dalima Chhibber, Grace Dangmei, Soumya Guguloth, Shreya Hooda, Indumathi Kathiresan, Ashalata Devi Loitongbam, Priyangika Devi Naorem, Sowmiya Narayanasamy, Sweety Devi Ngangbam, Bala Devi Ngangom, Sandhiya Ranganathan, Ranjana Chanu Sorokhaibam, Anju Tamang, Pyari Xaxa.

GOLF

Men: Anirban Lahiri, Shubhankar Sharma, S.S.P. Chawrasia, Khalin Joshi.

Women: Aditi Ashok, Avani Prashanth, Pranavi Urs.

GYMNASTICS

Women's artistic individual: Pranati Nayak.

HANDBALL

Women: Bhawana, Diksha Kumari, Menika, Priyanka, Sonika, Sushma, Pooja Kanwar, Asha Rani, Mitali Sharma, Nidhi Sharma, Nina Shil, Jyoti Shukla, Shiva Singh, Tejaswani Singh, Priyanka Thakur, Shalini Thakur.

HOCKEY

Men: P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Varun Kumar, Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh, Abhishek, Gurjant Singh, Mandeep Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay

Women: Savita Punia, Bichu Devi Kharibam, Deepika, Lalremsiami, Monika, Navneet Kaur, Neha, Nisha, Sonika, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Deep Grace Ekka, Vandana Katariya, Sangita Kumari, Vaishnavi Vittal Phalke, Nikki Pradhan, Sushila Chanu, Salima Tete.

JUDO

Men: Avtar Singh (100kg).

Women: Garima Choudhary (70kg), Indubala Devi Maibam (78kg), Tulika Maan (+78kg).

JU-JITSU

Men: 62kg: Kamal Singh, Tarun Yadav; 85kg: Uma Maheshwar, Amarjeet Singh.

19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022

Women: 48kg: Anwesha Deb, Navya Pandey; 52kg: Rohini Kalam, Anupama Swain; 57kg: Nikita Chaudhary, Angitha Shyju; 63kg: Kiran Kumari.

KABADDI

Men: Nitesh Kumar, Parvesh Bhainswal, Sachin, Surjeet Singh, Vishal Bhardwaj, Arjun Deshwal, Aslam Inamdar, Naveen Kumar, Pawan Sehrawat, Sunil Kumar, Nitin Rawal, Akash Shinde.

Women: Akshima, Jyoti, Pooja, Pooja, Priyanka, Pushpa, Sakshi Kumari, Ritu Negi, Nidhi Sharma, Sushma Sharma, Snehal Pradeep Shinde, Sonali Vishnu Shingat.

KURASH

Men: Keshav (66kg), Vishal Ruhil (81kg), Yash Kumar Chauhan (90kg).

Women: Pincky Balhara and Suchika Tariyal (52kg), Jyoti Tokas (87kg).

MODERN PENTATHLON

Mayank Chaphekar.

ROLLER SKATING AND SKATEBOARDING

Men: Speed slalom: Vishvesh Ganesh; **Speed slalom/Inline/Free style (pair):** Jinesh Satyan Nanal; **Relay team 3000m:** Vikram Rajendra Ingale, Siddhant Rahul Kamble, Aryanpal Singh, Anandkumar Velkumar.

Women: Speed skating (10000m)/ relay skateboarding team 3000m: Aarthy Kasturi Raj; **Free skating:** Sai Samithas Akula, Greeshma Dontara; **Speed slalom:** Merlin Charles.

Relay team 3000m: Heeral Sadhu, Karthika Jagadeeswaran, Sanjana Bathula; **Inline free style (pair):** Shreyashi Joshi.

ROWING

Men: Coxed eight: Charanjeet Singh, D.U. Pande, Naresh Kalwaniya, Neeraj, Neetesh Kumar, Ashish, Bheem Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Punit Kumar; **Coxless four:** Ashish, Bheem Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Punit Kumar.

Coxless pair: Babu Lal Yadav, Lekh Ram; **Double scull and quadruple scull:** Parminder Singh, Satnam Singh; **Lightweight double scull:** Arjun Lal Jat, Arvind Singh; **Quadruple scull:** Jakar Khan, Sukhmeet Singh; **Single scull:** Balraj Panwar; **Sweep (substitute):** Ashish Goliyan; **Sculls (substitute):** Kulwinder Singh.

Women: Lightweight double scull: Kiran, Anshika Bharti; **Coxed eight:** Geetanjali Gurugbelli, Ritu Kaudi, Sonali Swain, Tendenthoi Devi, K.B. Varsha, P.B. Aswathi, Mrunamayee Nilesh, Priya Devi Thangjam, Rukmani; **Coxless four:** P.B. Aswathi, Mrunamayee Nilesh, Priya Devi Thangjam, Rukmani; **Substitute:** Archa Aji, Rose Meril.

RUGBY SEVENS

Women: Sheetal Sharma, Sandhya Rai, Sweta Shahi, Mama Naik, Kalyani Patil, Vaishnavi Patil, Lachmi Oraon, Dumuni Marndi, Hupi Majhi, Shikha Yadav, Tarulata Naik, Priya Bansal.

SAILING

Men: ILCA7: Vishnu Saravanan; **Kiteboarding:** Chitresh Tatha; **iQFoil:** Jerome Kumar; **RS:X:** Eabad Ali; **ILCA4:** Adhvait Menon; **49er (team):** K.C. Ganapathy, Varun Thakkar.

Women: ILCA6: Nethra Kumanan; **RS:X:** Ishwariya Ganesh; **ILCA4:** Neha Thakur; **49er (team):** Harshita Tomar, Shital Verma.

Mixed: Nacra 17: Siddeshwar Doiphode, Ramya Saravanan; **470:** Sudhanshu Shekhar, Preeti Kongara.

SEPAK TAKRAW

Men: Regu: Arun, Niken Singh Khangembam, John Meitei Laishram, Henary Singh Wahengbam, Akash Yumnam; **Quadrant:** Shiva Kumar Chakali, Sandeep Kumar, Malemnganba Sorokhaibam.

Women: Regu: Khushbu, Maipak Devi Ayekam, Leirentonbi Devi Elangbam, Priya Devi Elangbam, Chaoba Devi Oinam; **Quadrant:** Ayekpam Priya Devi, Sezovelu Dozo Dada Teas, Seyiekhrieno Tepa.

SHOOTING

Men: 10m air pistol: Arjun Singh Cheema, Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal; **10m air rifle:** Divyansh Singh, Rudrankksh Patil, Aishwary Pratap Singh; **25m rapid fire pistol:** Adarsh Singh, Anish, Vijayveer Sidhu; **50m rifle 3 positions:** Akhil Sheoran, Swapnil Kusale; **Skeet:** Anantjeet Singh, Gurjoat Singh, Angad Vir Singh; **Trap:** Kynan Chenai, Prithviraj Toindaman, Zoravar Singh.

Women: 10m air pistol: T.S. Divya, Palak, Esha Singh, Ashi Chouksey, Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita; **25m sports pistol:** Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan; **50m rifle 3 positions:** Ashi Chouksey, Manini Kaushik, Sift Kaur; **Skeet:** Ganemat Sekhon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore. **Trap:** Rajeshwari Kumari, Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak.

Mixed:
Air pistol: Sarabjot, Shiva Narwal, Divya, Esha Singh.
Air rifle: Divyansh Singh, Aishwary Pratap, Mehuli, Ramita; **Skeet:** Anantjeet, Angad Vir, Ganemat, Parinaaz.

SOFT TENNIS

Men: Jay Meena, Aniket Patel, Rajveer Amaliyar, Aditya Dubey, Rohit Dhiman.

Women: Aadhya Tiwari, Tushita Singh, Nikita Bishnoi, Raga Sri, Anusha.

SQUASH

Men: Saurav Ghosal, Abhay Singh, Mahesh Mangaonkar, Harinderpal Singh Sandhu.

Women: Joshna Chinappa, Dipika Pallikal Karthik, Anahat Singh, Tanvi Khanna.

SWIMMING

Men: Aneesh Gowda, Advait Page, Aryan Nehra, A.S. Anand, Kushagra Rawat, S.P. Likith, Sajan Prakash, Srihari Nataraj, Tanish Matthew, Utkarsh Patil, Vishal Grewal, Virdhawal Khade.

Women: Dinidhi Desinghu, Hashika Ramachandran, A.K. Linyesha, Maana Patel, Nina Venkatesh, Palak Joshi, Shivangi Sarma, Vritti Agarwal, Janhvi Choudhary.

TABLE TENNIS

Men: Sharath Kamal (singles, doubles), G. Sathiyan (singles, doubles, mixed doubles), Harmeet Desai (singles, mixed doubles), Manav Thakkar (singles, doubles), Manush Shah (singles, doubles)

Women: Manika Batra (singles, mixed doubles), Sreeja Akula (singles, doubles, mixed doubles), Sutirtha Mukherjee (singles, doubles), Ayhika Mukherjee (singles, doubles), Diya Chitale (singles, doubles).

TENNIS

Men: Singles: Sumit Nagal; **Doubles:** Rohan Bopanna, Yuki Bhambri, Saketh Myneni, Ramkumar Ramanathan.

Women: Singles: Ankita Raina, Karman Kaur Thandi; **Doubles:** Ankita, Karman, Prarthana, Rutuja Bhosale.

Mixed: Bopanna, Yuki, Myneni, Ramkumar, Ankita, Rutuja, Prarthana.

VOLLEYBALL

Men: Amit, Vinit Kumar, S. Ammarambath, Muthusamy Appavu, Hari Prasad, Rohit Kumar, Manoj Manjunatha, U. Mohan, Ashwal Rai, S. Anthoni Raj, Guru Prasanth, Erin Varghese.

Women: Minimol Abraham, Nirmal, Soorya, Jincy Johnson, Anusree, Aswani Kandoth, Jini Shaji, Saranya Salikumar, Shilpa Sindhu, Aswathi Raveendran, Shaalini Saravanan, Suji Vijayan.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Women: Mirabai Chanu (49kg), Bindyarani Devi (55kg).

WRESTLING

Men: Freestyle: Aman Sehrawat (57kg), Bajrang Punia (65kg, - **standbye:** Vishal Kaliraman); Yash (74kg), Deepak Punia (86kg), Vicky (97kg), Sumit (125kg).

Greco-Roman: Gyanender (60kg), Neeraj (67kg), Vikas (77kg), Sunil Kumar (87kg), Narinder Cheema (97kg), Naveen (130kg).

Women: Pooja Gehlot (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Mansi Ahlawat (57kg), Sonam Malik (62kg), Radhika (68kg), Kiran (76kg).

WUSHU

Men: Sanda: Suraj Yadav (70kg), Surya Bhanu Partap (60kg), Vikrant Baliyan (60kg), Sunil Singh (56kg): **Changquan:** Anjul Namdeo, Suraj Singh; **Daoshu:** Rohit Jadhav.

Women: Onilu Tega (52kg), Roshibina Devi (60kg); **Changquan:** Nyeman Wangsu; **Taijiquan:** Mepung Lamgu.

** subject to last-minute changes*

INBRIEF

Mohammed Siraj reclaims top spot among ODI bowlers

Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has regained his number one spot in the men's ICC ODI bowling rankings after his six-wicket haul in the final of the recently-concluded Asia Cup. Siraj has surged eight spots. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved down three places to ninth.

BCCI announces SBI Life as an official partner in 3-year deal

SBI Life has joined hands with the Board of Control for Cricket in India as one of the official partners for the BCCI domestic and international season 2023-2026. SBI Life, one of India's largest insurance companies, has signed a three-year deal and the partnership will begin with the upcoming ODI series against Australia, starting on September 22.

Antim loses in the semifinals at wrestling Worlds

Antim Panghal (53kg) fought brilliantly to reach the semifinals but lost 5-4 in the final second to Belarus' Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the World wrestling championships in Belgrade on Wednesday. However, three other Indians – Manisha (62kg), Priyanka (68kg) and Jyoti Berwal (72kg) – lost their first round matches. Antim stunned defending champion and World No. 2 Dominique Olivia Parrish 3-2 in the opening round, beat Poland's former Worlds bronze winner Roksana Zasina 10-0 in the pre-quarterfinals and Russia's Natalia Malysheva 9-6 in the quarterfinals. Despite her semifinal loss, Antim has a chance to land a bronze medal and secure an Olympic quota place on Thursday.

National under-7 chess in Kolkata from today

The National under-7 chess championship will start here from Thursday. 243 boys and 123 girls from 29 States will take part in the five-day event that offers a prize money of ₹5 lakh. Divith Reddy Adulla and Anupriya Yadav are the top seeds among boys and girls.

Punjab FC signs Greek defender Dimitrios

Punjab FC on Wednesday announced the signing of Greek defender Dimitrios Chatziisaias for the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season. The 30-year-old Chatziisaias had earlier played for clubs in Greece, Turkey and Belgium.

ISL-10: a stronger and longer version kicks off today

As the I-League champion, Punjab FC will be the first team to gain promotion to the tournament which will have 12 teams; Kerala Blasters takes on former champion Bengaluru FC in the opener

FOOTBALL

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Prep time: Kerala Blasters FC players train ahead of the opener against Bengaluru FC. H. VIBHU

As the Indian Super League opens its 10th season on Thursday, with the Southern derby between Kerala Blasters and Bengaluru FC in Kochi, some 9000km away an under-prepared Indian team will be desperately working out strategies for its crucial Asian Games league match against Bangladesh the same evening at Xiaoshan, China.

With many of the ISL clubs reluctant to send their top players for the Asiad as the event fell outside the FIFA international window, confusion prevailed over the last few weeks with changes happening frequently.

So much so, the National coach Igor Stimac was not sure who would finally be in his team even some five days before the squad's departure to China.

In the end, with some late additions including defender Sandesh Jhingan, the team made a last-minute dash to China. Exhausted after a long travel and without a single training session, the team suffered a 5-1 thrashing against the host in its opener at Hangzhou on Tuesday.

Under this situation, the ISL will have a bit of an uneasy start.

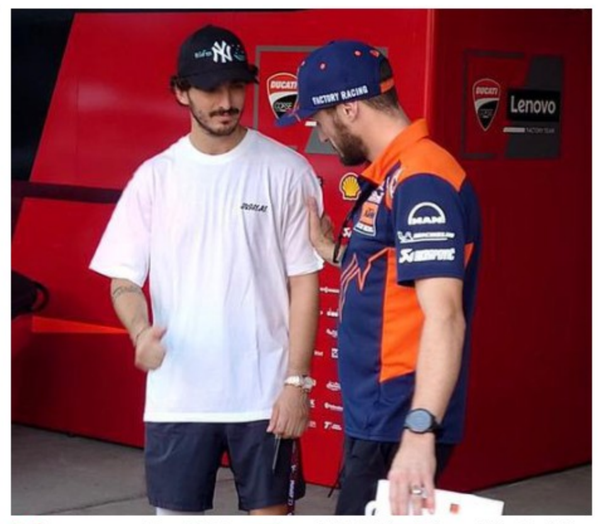
Started in 2014 with just eight teams playing over two-and-half months, the ISL has come a long way. Last year, the league lasted four-and-half months and this season with Punjab FC becoming the first-ever team to gain promotion to the ISL as the I-League champion, the league will now have 12 teams and is expected to be longer. India's FIFA World ranking has also improved considerably since the start of the ISL, from 171 at one point in 2014 to its current high of 99.

Big churn

There has been a big churn in the ISL this season. Defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant has grabbed the Kerala Blasters' talented Sahal Abdul Samad while FC Goa has taken top defender Sandesh Jhingan from Bengaluru FC among the prominent changes.

"Mohun Bagan, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Goa and may be Odisha look good so I think the competition will be a little bit stronger than last year," said Belgian Frank Dauwen, the Blasters' assistant coach.

So get ready for some tight battles.



Doing a recee: Ducati's Bagnaia and KTM rider Miller at the Buddh International Circuit on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Marquez gets visa, to arrive today

MOTOGP

S. Dipak Ragav
NOIDA

Ahead of the inaugural MotoGP race in India this weekend, six-time champion Marc Marquez finally got his visa and will arrive in the country on Thursday.

Marquez was among a few drivers who did not get their visas on time and posted on Tuesday that he had to delay his departure. The Repsol Honda rider revealed on social media that he had received his visa with a picture from the flight.

It is understood most riders have either reached or are en route to the country. Meanwhile, reigning MotoGP champion and championship leader Francesco Bagnaia of Ducati, his chief rival Jorge Martin of Prima Pramac Racing, and KTM rider Jack Miller were among the few riders who visited the Buddh International Circuit on Wednesday.

Martin trails Bagnaia by 36 points after winning the Sprint and main Grand Prix in the previous round at the San Marino GP in Misano and will look to further reduce the Italian's lead.

Lazio custodian Provedel's strike earns a draw against Atletico

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
BERLIN

Barcelona's Joao Felix, Manchester City's Julian Alvarez and Paris Saint Germain's Kylian Mbappe all scored as their teams made winning starts in the Champions League.

But the wildest celebrations of the night came in Rome, where Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel headed in the team's equaliser in the fifth minute of injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid. It was the last action of the game.

While Barcelona slammed five past Antwerp, City came from a goal down to defeat Red Star Belgrade. PSG meanwhile posted a 2-0 win over Borussia Dortmund.

Having the final say: Provedel heads in Lazio's equaliser off the last play of the game against Atletico. AFP

The results: Group E: Feyenoord 2 (Stengs 45+2, Jahanbakhsh 76) bt Celtic 0; Lazio 1 (Provedel 90+5) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Barrios 29).

Group F: AC Milan 0 drew with Newcastle United 0; Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Mbappe 49-pen, Hakimi 58) bt Borussia Dortmund 0.

Group G: Young Boys 1 (Elia 33) lost to RB Leipzig (AUT) 3 (Simaken 3, Schlager 74, Sesko 90+2); Manchester City 3 (Alvarez 47, 60, Rodri 73) bt Red Star Belgrade 1 (Bukari 45).

Group H: Barcelona 5 (Felix 11, 66, Lewandowski 19, Bataille 22-og, Gavi 54) bt Antwerp 0; Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Kelsy 13) lost to Porto 3 (Galeno 8, 15, Taremi 29).

Para Asian Games a litmus test ahead of the Paralympics: Bhagat

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat, gold medallist in the last edition of Para Asian Games, and Sukant Kadam, team event bronze medallist, are determined to script 'golden' moments in the coming Para Asian Games.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, the champion shuttlers shared their thoughts. "These Asian Games are very important because they are a litmus test for us with the Paralympics just around the corner next year.

"They are always tough and I would like to retain my gold medal. I have been training hard and also staying in a positive state of mind about the games. The Asiad will be the first step towards preparing and qualifying for the Paris Paralympics," Bhagat explained.

"My coach Das sir and I have been working on certain strategies and gameplan and the focus will be implementing those while playing in the tournament. My strong-point is I don't take things very seriously, be calm and composed, and enjoy my game."

"This year has been a lot of ups and downs so working on consistency is a key for me. I have been either having flawless games or making silly mistakes. So, the focus is working on eradicating mistakes," Sukant said.

Confident: Bhagat, right, and Kadam are determined to give their best at the Asian Games. FILE PHOTO

It's Indian Patriot vs. Trump Star in B.A. Nanaiah Memorial Trophy

MYSURU: Indian Patriot and Trump Star may fight out the finish of the B.A.Nanaiah Memorial Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Sept 21). False rails (width about 6.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ECLIPSE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Mighty Prince (10) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 2. Mystical Merlin (6) A.K. Aniket 59, 3. Hurrem (5) N.B. Kuldeep 57.5, 4. Country's Talent (1) G. Vivek 56.5, 5. Here I Come (9) R. Shiva K 56, 6. Diva In Gold (8) Prabhu K 55.5, 7. Pininfarina (7) M. Shahid 55.5, 8. Top Rank (3) R. Pradeep 54.5, 9. Eco System (2) A. Ramu 54, 10. Romantic Heart (11) Rajesh K 54, 11. Fifty Grand (4) Angad 53.5 and 12. Raptor (12) Shreyas S 51.
1. COUNTRY'S TALENT, 2. TOP RANK, 3. MYSTICAL MERLIN

2 ECLIPSE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. D United (1) Kiran Rai 62, 2. Lucky Sun (10) Koshi K 62, 3. Morganite (4) J. Chinoy 61.5, 4. Shivalik Sound (11) R. Shiva K 61.5, 5. Sparkling Night (6) Inayat 61.5, 6. Miracle Honey (3) B. Dharshan 60.5, 7. Meraki (7) S. John 60, 8. Desert Romance (12) Md. Mushraf 59.5, 9. City Of Gravitas (9) Rajesh K 59, 10. Sultan Sword (2) N.B. Kuldeep 57.5, 11. Fleet Tactical (8) Angad 57 and 12. Gabriella (5) M. Rajesh K 51.5.
1. SPARKLING NIGHT, 2. MERAKI, 3. GABRIELLA

3 H.H. SRI CHAMARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Art Gallery (8) Inayat 56, 2. Dark Chocolate (11) S. Qureshi 56, 3. Davids Delight (2) Arshad 56, 4. Eloquent (12) Srinath 56, 5. Kalashnikov (7) M. Rajesh K 56, 6. King Of Kesari (9) Shreyas S 56, 7. Myraa's Prince (5) J. Chinoy 56, 8. Seolfor Bullet (4) Angad 56, 9. Star Concept (1) Vinod Shinde 56, 10. The Gallery Time (10) P. Sai K 56, 11. Crosswater (6) Antony 54.5 and 12. Running Bolt (3) G. Vivek 54.5.
1. ART GALLERY, 2. THE GALLERY TIME, 3. CROSSWATER

4 M.B. APPAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Tarek (5) G. Vivek 60, 2. Twilight Tornado (2) Antony 57, 3. Armstrong (4) Srinath 56, 4. Eridani (7) Jagadeesh 56, 5. Flamingo Dancer (1) Koshi K 53, 6. D Roman Power (6) Md. Aliyar 52 and 7. What Is This (3) M. Rajesh K 52.
1. ARMSTRONG, 2. TAREK

5 B.A. NANAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 60 & above, 4-00: 1. Segera (7) Angad 68.5, 2. Trump Star (12) A.K. Aniket 61, 3. Wild Spell (5) Koshi K 59.5, 4. Tracer Bullet (8) Inayat 56, 5. Ignorance Is Bliss (3) M. Shahid 55, 6. Perfect Perfecto (6) R. Shiva K 55, 7. Contributor (11) G. Vivek 54.5, 8. Smart Cadillac (2) B. Dharshan 54, 9. Mountain Lion (1) P. Sai K 53.5, 10. Indian Patriot (4) Vinod Shinde 52.5, 11. Perfect Justice (9) Kiran Rai 52 and 12. Elusive Girl (10) Md. Aliyar 50.5.
1. INDIAN PATRIOT, 2. TRUMP STAR, 3. PERFECT JUSTICE

6 KASARGOD PLATE (1,800m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Aircraft (7) Srinath 62.5, 2. Norwegian Wood (11) Antony 61, 3. Dornish (12) Vijay K 60, 4. D Brother (5) S. Qureshi 59, 5. The Golden Dream (8) H. Rahul 59, 6. Wolf Creek (4) G. Vivek 58.5, 7. Armory (9) Kiran Rai 57.5, 8. My Life My Rules (6) Hasib Alam 57.5, 9. Saigon (10) Neeraj 57.5, 10. Pharazon (3) L.A. Rozario 56.5, 11. My Visionary (1) A. Ramu 54 and 12. Polar Wind (2) Arshad 53.5.
1. PHARAZON, 2. SAIGON, 3. NORWEGIAN WOOD

7 FAIR WOOD PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. D Roman Reigns (7) Jagadeesh 61, 2. Acaster (9) Srinath 59.5, 3. Perfectimagination (1) Md. Mushraf 59.5, 4. Extraordinary (11) P. Sai K 58, 5. Golden Time (2) G. Vivek 56, 6. Lucky Point (5) Hasib Alam 55.5, 7. Real Show (15) Angad 55.5, 8. D Dear (4) Salman Khan 54.5, 9. Gintoki (14) Arshad 54.5, 10. Tenali (8) Kiran Rai 54, 11. Top Dancer (10) Shreyas S 54, 12. Vijaya Brave (6) N.B. Kuldeep 54, 13. Winter Storm (3) M. Rajesh K 54, 14. Dragon's Gold (13) S. Saqlain 51 and 15. Athulya (12) A. Baandal 50.
1. GOLDEN TIME, 2. TOP DANCER, 3. DRAGON'S GOLD

Day's best: **ARMSTRONG**
Double: **PHARAZON – GOLDEN TIME**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

LIVE TELECAST

Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 1, 3 & 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 a.m. onwards

Bangladesh vs New Zealand: 1st ODI, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Indian team confident of good show at World Deaf c'ship

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

The Indian team had a rigorous training camp on the clay courts of the Dhyan Chand National Stadium, prior to its departure for the Deaf World Tennis Championship to be staged in Crete, Greece, from September 23.

Chief coach Dr. Stalin Nagaraj was optimistic that the team would put up a good performance. He was happy that there would be a youth section this time, apart from the events for men and women.

Prithvi Sekar, who has won a string of medals including the singles gold in 2019 event, and Dhananjay Dubey make up the men's team.

. The women's team has Jafreen Shaik and Bhavani Kedia.

Indian teams preparing in all earnest for the Asian Games

BASKETBALL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

For over a month, three Indian basketball teams – one 5x5 (women) and two 3x3 (men & women) – have been training at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here preparing for the Hangzhou Asian Games. The teams will leave for China on September 23.

The women's (5x5) team is being coached by S. Baskar while the men's and women's 3x3 are being guided by Veselin Matic and Baskar.

New strategies

Baskar said the team's training has been going on smoothly and some new strategies were being tried out in the camp. He added the side was a mixture of youth and experience. The 57-year-old said doing well in the Pool will be the key in deciding the future course of action.

"It's been a long camp. We first started in July in Chhattisgarh for 20 days and then in Chennai. We have a good combination of juniors and seniors.

"We have Indonesia, Mongolia and defending champion China in our group (A). We hope to beat Indonesia and Mongolia. The big team is, of course, China. After that, we will play the classification matches," he said.

Baskar said: "We first play Indonesia, who are B-division champions. We are analysing their game. We are going in with a new offensive strategy," he said.

Matic, the men's team coach for 3x3 at the Games, said there was lack of exposure for the Indian players. He cited the example of Mongolia that has played in almost all possible tournaments in the run-up to the Games.

Pranav Prince, one of the key players in the Indian men's 3x3 team, said a top-three finish is definitely possible in the Games. "We are grouped (C) with China, Macau and Malaysia. If we play according to our potential we can finish among the top three," he said.

Trying new strategies: The Indian women's team trains under the watchful eyes of coach Baskar. M. VEDHAN

Mukund in second round

Sports Bureau

Mukund Sasikumar beat qualifier Daniel Ibragimov 7-6(3), 7-5 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Wednesday.

The results: €73,000 Challenger, Sibiu, Romania: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha & Divij Sharan w.o. Salvatore Caruso & Alessandro Giannessi (Ita).
$25,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: First round: Mukund Sasikumar bt Daniel Ibragimov 7-6(3), 7-5.
$25,000 ITF men, Guiiyang, China: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Ying-Ze Chen & Chen-Yu Lu (Tpe) bt Tushar Sharma & Chun-Ming Yam (Hkg) 7-6(9), 6-4.
$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: First round: Keshav Chopra (USA) bt Karan Singh 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.
Women: First round: Vaishnavi Adkar bt Camilla Zanolini (Ita) 7-5, 6-1; Teja Tirunelveli bt Kristina Voznyak (Ukr) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.
$60,000 ITF women, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Sarah Grey & Eden Silva (GBR) bt Eva Alvarez (Esp) & Vasanti Shinde 6-1, 6-0.
$25,000 ITF women, Perth: Singles: First round: Taylah Preston (Aus) bt Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-0, 7-5.